MARTYRS OF IND

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Author
THE VANISHING EMPIRE
HINDU AMERICA ETC , ETC

War of Independence Centenary

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To

The unknown unsung and unwept Martyrs who had no funeral but whose sacrifice brought us freedom as the silent sacrifice of seeds blossoms into flowers

CHAMAN LA

MARTYRS OF IND

CONTENTS

NAMDHARIS BLOWN WITH CANNONS

After ten Namdharis had been sent to the gallows for trying to forcibly stop cow laughter at Malerkotla matters came to a head in January 1872 when a batch of hundred Namdharis resolved to capture the state armoury

They made a bold attempt to capture the Nawab s trea sury but were repulsed The Kotwal of the city and seven other soldiers were k lled in action The Namdharis lost seven of their companions and seeing little hope of success decided to withdraw from the to vn The Deputy Commis sioner of Ludh ana Mr L Cowan sent for military aid and also requested Pat ala Nabha and Jind state for assistance M antime the pa ty of Namdharis had been arrested by Naib Nazim of Amargarh Sixty eight of them including two women were produced before Mr Cowan at Malerkotla The two women were handed over to Pat ala troops The rest of the prisoners were order d by Mr Cowan to be blown away from the mouths of cannons without any semblance of a trial and in contravention of the orders of his superior Mr Forsyth Commissioner Ambala In batches the Nam dharis were led to the mouths of the cannons and blasted off As the last batch was being tied to the guns Cowan received an order from Mr Forsyth to send the prisoners for trial But as Cowan wrote I handed over the letter to Col Perkins with the remarks that it would be impossible to stay the execution of the men already tied to the guns So they \ ere all blown away except the fiftieth \ ho was courageous enou,h to free himself from the guards attacked Deputy Commissioner and was cut to pieces by the native troops On the following day Mr Forsyth reached Maler kotla and not only approved the summary execut ons of Mr Cowan but also himself summarily tried the remaining 16 Namdharis and sentenced them to death

Lamentable Indiscret on The brutal executions sent a wave of ind gnation throughout India An enquiry was held into the actions of Cowan and Forsyth The report by Secretary to Government Punjab confirmed that Mr Co ans action was marked by undisciplined presump- tion and unmeasured severity Government of India con cluded that The course followed by Mr Cowan was illegal it was not palliated by any public necessity and \ as charac terised by incidents which gave it a complexion of barbarity

—The Ad arce

Rajasthan's Chief Minister's Message

Congratulations for undertaking to bring out a book on the martyrs of India The new India will be judged by the way in which she uses her freedom We must profit by the lessons of the past The example of martyrs who laid down their lives in freedom's cause should inspire us for all time If the struggle failed, then the causes of failure should be analysed and we should steer clear of such causes in future

We have yet a long way to traverse to reach that steadiness and balance which modern independent nations claim to enjoy The memory of the martyrs of 1857 will certainly inspire the people of India to sink whatever differences they may have today and march abreast together on the path of progress, peace and prosperity

July 19, 1957

Mohan Lal Sukhadia
Chief Minister, Rajasthan

First Martyr Jaipal

The enemy of god Jaipal, and his children and grand children and nephews were taken prisoners and being strongly bound with ropes were carried before the Sultan as evil doers on whose faces the fumes of infidelity are evident, who are covered with the vapours of misfortune and will be bound and carried to Hell Some had their arms forcibly tied behind their backs some were seized by the cheek some were driven by blows on the neck The necklace was taken off the neck of Jaipal The Sultan directed that the polluted infidel Jaipal should be paraded about so that his sons and chieftains might see him in that condition of shame bonds and disgrace and that the fear of Islam might fly abroad through the country of the infidels

Unable to bear this insult Jaipal threw himself into a flaming pyre and put an end to his life as soon as he could

Tarikh i-Yamini

CHAPTER I

Lest we forget

There is no history in the world which is more replete with examples of youthful martyrdom than the history of India. On the battlefield it is true, the heroes of many nations have made sacrifice of a glorious character but for individual martyrdoms for great causes by youngmen, shall we say boys, it is to India that one should turn. Which country can boast of having produced a boy of more indomitable courage, endurance and spirit of sacrifice than that young hero Prahlad Bhagat who suffered persecution at the hands of his own misguided father—a king who pretended to be greater than God.

The sacrifice of the great Haqiqat for personal convictions is still unrivalled in the history of the world. It was again India that presented to the world a spectacle of two little boys barely in their teens voluntarily permitting themselves to be buried alive rather than change their convictions or principles. They were the brave sons of the great hero Guru Gobind Singh the greatest martyr of India. Banda Bahadur and thousands of the brave followers of the Guru gambled with their lives in the tradition of Rajputs. The illustrious name of Prithvi Raj, Padmani, Rana Pratap, Shivaji, Rani Lakshmi Bai, Nana Sahib, Bahadur Shah, Tatya Tope and other heroes of the 1857 war of independence will always shine as stars on the political horizon of India. The story of the sacrifice of Meena, daughter of Nana Sahib is a memorial of British brutality.

Who will not be proud of Khudi Ram, Satyen, Kartar Singh Sarabha who in their teens embraced gallows

to see mother India free ? Thousand of youngmen and young women from Bengal Punjab Uttar Pradesh and our former Frontier Province sacrificed their lives at the altar of freedom Revolutionary heroes like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Rash Behari Bo e Chandra Shekhar Azad Sachir Nath Sanyal Jogesh Chatterjee Bhagat Singh Prithvi Singh Khankhoje and thousands of heroes of the Azad Hind Fau the Indian Navy the Babar Akalis the brave Pathans heroes of Komagata Maru H jli Chittagong and Peshaw nurtured the tree of fr edom with their blood The story o blood bath in the Frontier in 1930 is an eternal tribute the brave Pathans who suffered so cheerfully in the cause o our freedom Assam Bihar Andhra U P M P all contr bu their quota of martyrs in this struggle U P played illustrious roll in 1857 and 1942

All states of In d a contributed their quota of freed fighters but the Punjab and the Frontier which for ce faced the foreign invasions naturally produced the b number of martyrs for ten centuries A very large numb of patriots and soldiers of humanity acrificed themselv Guru Tegh Bahadur the sons of Guru Govind Singh who were built into a wall alive Guru Arjundev who was roasted and boiled to death Bhai Mansingh who was sawed to deatl the 66 bra e Namdhari Sikhs who were blasted by cann others who were speared and lynched in thousands by the foreign rulers out to crush the national movements Mary others kissed the rope of the gallows like Sardar Bhagat Singh Kartar Sin h Sarabha and their noble colle ues Punjab produced heroes like Madanlal Dh ngra and Udham Singh who avenged India s honour in the enemy s citadel—London Lajpat Rai Ajitsingh Har Dyal Amir Chand Balmokand Rahmat Khan Jagat Ram Ram Chandra Sufi Amba Pershad were brave sons of the Punjab There were others like Sardar Sewasingh Thikar wala who were made to wither a ay on the rocks or behind prison bars Many more including the heroes of the Ghadar movement like Sardar Bakhshish singh Gillwali Harnam singh Bhatti Goreya

Jagatsingh Sursinghwala, Vishnu Ganesh Pingle, Suramsingh Gilwali were subjected to brutal and hair raising tortures and death

These heroes never committed any conspiracy, but they were tried under the then existing laws and hanged These heroes also included Sardar Birsingh Bahuwal, Sardar Ishar Singh Dhudike, Rangasingh Khurdpur, Rursingh Talwandi Dosanjh, Uttamsingh Hans, Doctor Mathura Singh, Shri Nama Fatehgarh Hafiz Abdullah Jagraon, Rursingh Sangwal, Sardar Harnamsingh Kabri, Shri Chhaharam Sablnewal, Sardar Wasawasingh Wara, Sardar Narainsingh Balo, Sardar Niranjansingh Sangatpura, Sardar Palasingh Sherpura, Sardar Jawandsingh Nangal, Banta Singh Sangwal, Butasingh Akalgarh and Pandit Sohanlal Pathak of Patti The Babar Akali movement was equally revolutionary in character and claimed hundreds of heroic martyrs

There were countless men and women known and unknown who laid down their lives for the sake of the motherland They preferred death to budging an inch with ignominy from their loyalty to India The Punjab also made a proud contribution to the I N A The names of general Mohan Singh, Shahnawaz, Prem Sehgal and Dhillon were household names in India in 1946 Thousands of silent soldiers of Netaji lie buried in the battle fields of Kohima, Manipur and Burma border It is they who gave us the national victory slogan JAI HIND by their sacrifices for Hind's freedom

To all such unknown warriors India salutes today and extends her respectful homage on the 100th anniversary of the 1857 War of Independence

Long Live the Martyrs of Ind

10th May 1957 Chaman Lal



CHAPTER II

NATIONAL HEROES—THEIR INSPIRING DEEDS

RANA PRATAP

PRINCE AMONG PATRIOTS

WHO NEVER ACCEPTED DEFEAT

HE FIRED FIRST SHOT

MANGAL PANDEY PIONEER OF 1857

BAHADURSHAH PRESENTED PRINCES' HEADS

PROUD OF MY SONS' SACRIFICE

LIFE SENTENCE FOR SHOUTING BANDE MATRAM

KUMAR SINGH HERO OF BIHAR

HIS LAST OFFERING TO GANGA

GENEROUS LAKSHMIBAI—ENEMY'S TRIBUTE

MADAN LAL DHINGRA PIONEER REVOLUTIONARY

HIS MESSAGE FROM THE GALLOWS

BENGAL'S BRAVEST DAUGHTER

DIED WITH FLAG IN HAND

TRAITOR SHOT IN JAIL MARTYRS AT 14 15

WEEP NOT BE PROUD OF THEM

OUDH BEHARI'S LAST WISH

NO PEACE BUT REVOLUTION

HE LAUGHED AT DEATH

BALMOKAND'S MARTYRDOM

WIFE DIED A SATI

PATRIOTIC GARHWALI SOLDIERS

NETAJI'S LAST PROPHECY

CHAPTER II

NATIONAL HEROES—THEIR INSPIRING DEEDS

THE INSPIRING DEEDS OF OUR NATIONAL HEROES ARE OUR PROUDEST NATIONAL TREASURE

Rana Pratap

The history of Rajputana is a fascinating study, it abounds in the unusual, the romantic and the chivalrous. With an inhospitable land as their background, the Rajputs—Sisodias and Rathors, Kachhwahas and Bhatis, Chohans and Pramars—raised up a building which gathered around and in it all that was noble. Many have been the pilgrims who were attracted to it, but the corner which has been built by the doughty deeds of the Sisodias has had the largest amount of homage. And there the niche in which Rana Pratap stands has become the holiest of the holy. He stands for all that is usually associated with that romantic word, Rajput, and more. If courage was the distinguishing badge of the Rajputs, Pratap had more than his share of it, if unflinching resolution and indomitable will ever made a hero of a man, Pratap was one. If ever a man fought against fearful odds and pulled through them, it was he. Men have shrunk back from the very thought of adversity, Rana Pratap, a prince among men, invited it. Comfort and luxury have been hugged by thousands of this world's heroes, Pratap scorned them when they had to be bought at the cost of his independence. Persia and England, Baghdad and Arabia felt honoured in sending costly embassies to the court of the Great Mughal, but Pratap was content with sending his word of defiance. And the result? 'There is not a pass in the Alpine Aravalli that is not sanctified by some deed of Pratap, some brilliant victory or more glorious defeat.' Generations of Rajputs have sworn by his name and the deeds with which he made every corner of the Mughal Empire ring. What a sight it must have been, Pratap [illegible] the mighty

Akbar ! Wherever his language is spoken Pratap s is a name to rouse the disheartened But why Rajputs alone? In the collective memory of the Hindus he has got a place along vith Shivaji and Ranjit Singh and along with them he proved that not even centuries of Mohammadan domina tion could kill the spir t out of a proud race

Maharana Pratap occupies a very high place in the galaxy of the H ndu leaders ho inaugurated a reaction against Muslim domination in India For centuries the Hindus had submitted to their Muslim masters Here and there isolated ase had occu red where a Kumbha or a Sanga had stood out from among hi fellow men and defied the powers that be The Rajput submiss on to the imperial sway from Delhi had often been spasmodic It has been customary to count Pratap s one of that band of hardy warriors who went on fighting against heavy odds rather than own a master Pratap rather belonged—we should rather say he was the pre ursor of—to the series that produced Shiv ji in the Deccan and Ranj t Singh in the Punjab He not only opposed Akbar s design in Mewar he organised opposit on thereto Unlike the usual run of Rajput princes he was always most happy not in evading the Mughal invad rs but in building coalitions to stem the tide of Mughal conque t in Rajputana At one time or another he united round l is person the fierce Deoras of Sarohi the brave in battle Rathor the ruler of Idar the princes of Dongarpur the Hadas of Bundi and the Chohans of Ranthambor As soon as one coalition was dead he would build up another and continue flinging defiance at the Mu hals And in bringin these what had hitherto been hetero eneous elements together he would not som times spa e himself Rao Surtan Deora had expelled his nom nee from Sarohi but rather than stand on ceremony with him and vo an eternal enmity for this petty cause he invited his co operation nd had him as an ally in hi wars against the imperial powers !

Rao Maldev of Jodhpur and Rana Udai Singh had been enemies in their days and nothing would have pleased an old orthodox Rajput better than to carry on the family feud and weaken his own power into the bargain Yet when Rao Chander Sen, Rao Maldve s son and successor, appeared at Kumbhalgarh to congratulate Pratap on his succession, the Maharana forgot all early quarrels and the two remained close allies till the former's death in 1581 But more than anything else, he must be honoured for beginning that system of warfare for which credit has hitherto gone to Shivaji and the Maharattas alone The caste system in India threw the burden of defending the country on the Rajputs' shoulders and the Rajputs tried rather to fight and die on a battlefield than organize any large scale operations Pratap followed the Rajput tradition to the extent of fighting a pitched battle where it could not be avoided But he delighted most in leading the Mughals a dog's life, harassing them on all possible occasions, yet, in fighting and running away, so that he could fight another day It was this system of guerrilla warfare which was the backbone of Pratap s resistance to the Mughals This degraded the Mughal invasions to, what they later came to be against the Mahrattas, the useless task of beating the waves The waters parted as the stick came, but no sooner was it gone than did they unite again

He did not only inaugurate this system of warfare but carried it through as well successfully Invade it as they would, the imperial armies never succeeded in making themselves masters of Mewar They could overrun the country but could never conquer it

The success of his methods is apparent from the fact that he succeeded in winning back Mewar even against Akbar Sanga was great but Pratap must be considered greater still who succeeded in keeping the name of the

Sisodias unsullied who taught the Rajputs that it was as heroic to fight and run away if one could succeed ultimately thereby as to fight and die on the battlefield who organized coalition after coalition thus teaching the Rajputs the lesson of unity in which they so much lacked When Man Singh and Bhagwan Das Kalyan Mal and Ira Sir h Jagmal and Duda accepted service under Akbar Pratap vowed eternal opposition and kept his word winning respect from his opponents in the process

But nevertheless Pratap was no fanatic If he stood out against the Mughals he treated them cordially as the violators of his country's liberties But that was all The personal honour of his enemies was as safe in his hands as in their own When Amar Singh rejoiced in capturing Abdur Rahim ... he sharply reprimanded him and sent them back with all honour When a night attack on Man Singh would have made short work of that Kachhwaha ambitious Pratap Singh would have none of it We hear of no cruelties practised by his orders on any one who happened to have the misfortune of being born into a religion differing from his own And so far was he from depending on an appeal to religion alone in his determination to keep safe the liberty of his motherland that he was able to lead Muslim commanders and Muslim soldiers even against Akbar's might

He practised the Rajput art of hospitality to the full Who ever flocked to the Sisodia court deserted by fortune and hard pressed by the Mughals found a welcome home there Many a prince Ram Shah of Gwalior the most prominent among them found a welcome refuge with him

A great general brave warrior a successful organizer a prince among men a generous foe Pratap's name is sure to be honoured wherever these virtues are respected

(Professor Sri Ram Sharma)

HE FIRED FIRST SHOT

SHAHEED MANGAL PANDAY

The 19th regiment being stationed at Barrackpore, Vizier Ali Nakhi Khan who stayed near Calcutta had bound the whole regiment by oaths in favour of the Revolution. Some companies of this regiment had been sent to the men of the 19th, and these had brought over the whole of that regiment to the national cause. The English had no notion of this and decided to force the cartridges first on the 19th regiment as an experiment. But the regiment openly refused to accept them and made plain their determination even to draw their swords, if necessary. Seeing this, the English, in pursuance of their policy, began to put down the 'natives". But the English officers soon saw that they were not the 'natives' of past days. The clashing of swords soon convinced them of that. But they had quietly to pocket this insult, because, in the whole province, they had no white troops with which to overawe the Sepoys. To remove this difficulty, an English regiment was ordered from Burma to Calcutta in the beginning of March. The order went forth that the 19th regiment was to be disarmed and disbanded. It was decided to execute this order at Barrackpore!

But the Barrackpore regiment was not going to see quietly the spectacle of its countrymen being dishonoured. The sword of Mangal Panday positively refused to rest in its scabbard. The 34th regiment wanted to leave the Company's service quite as much as the 19th. Hence all patriots thought it was best that the Company itself disbanded the 19th. The wiser leaders counselled patience for one month until all were consulted. And letters had already been sent from Barrackpore to various regiments to fix the signal day. But Mangal Panday's sword would not wait!

Mangal Panday was a bral m n by birth He took up the duties of a Kshatriya and was a valiant young soldier Into the heart of this young and brilliant Brahmin ho loved his religion more than his life and vho was pure in his private life and undaunted in battle the idea of the freedom of his country had entered and electrified his blood Ho v could h s sword be patient? The s vords of m rtyrs never are ? The crown of martyr dom shines only on the head of those who regardless of success or failure bathe their cherisl ed ideals with their hot blood But from this apparently useless waste of blood does tl e sacred image of v ctory spring forth The idea that hi brethren ere going to be insulted before him fired Mangal Panday s heart and he began to insist that h s own reg ment hould r se on that very day When he heard that the lead rs of the Org nisat on would not consent to h s plan tl e young man s sp rit became uncon trollable nd he at once snatched and lo ded his gun and jumped on the p rade ground shouting 'Rise ! ye brethren rise ! Why do y u hold back brethren ? Come and rise I b nd you l y the oath of your religion ! Come let us rise and attack the treacherous enemies f r the sake of our freedom With such words he called upon his fello v soldiers to follo v him When S rgeant major Hughson sa v this he ordered the Sepoys to a rest Mangal Panday But the traitor Sepoys whom the En lish h d l e n ed to count upon upto now were nowhere to b found Not only d d no Sepoy move to arrest Panday at the or lers of the offi r but a bullet from Pa day k lled the officer and h s corpse rolled on the ground Ju t t this t me Lieutenant Baugh came upon th scere Wh le l is horse v as p an ng forth on the para l anoth r l ullet f om P nday str ick tl e l orse and brought both th horse nd tl e rider to the grou d Wh le Pand y as l din his gun again the officer g t up and aimed l s p st l at Panday but tl e l tter undis mayed drew out h s sv ord Baugh fred but n issed l is

mark , he then drew his sword , but before he could use it Panday struck him down rolling again While another white man was charging Panday, a Sepoy smashed his head with the barrel of his gun, and a shout arose from among all the Sepoys, "Do not touch Mangal Panday !" Immediately, Colonel Wheeler came and ordered Mangal Panday's arrest Another shout arose, "We would not even touch the hair of this sacred Brahmin " The Colonel, on seeing the blood of Englishmen flowing and the Sepoys in such a mood, speedily retreated to the bungalow of the general On the parade Mangal Panday continued waving his hands full of blood in the air, shouting tremendously all the time, "Rise ! Brethren, rise !" When General Hearsey heard this, he took some European soldiers and rode hastily towards Panday Seeing that he would soon fall into the hands of Feringhis and preferring death to falling into the hands of the enemy, Mangal Panday turned the gun towards his own breast, and immediately his sacred body lay wounded on the parade ground The wounded young soldier was taken to the hospital, and the English officers returned to their tents amazed at the bravery of this Sepoy This was on the 29th of March, 1857

Mangal Panday was then tried before a court martial During the inquiry, attempts were made to compel him to reveal the name of other conspirators But the valiant youth bluntly refused to do so He also said that he had no personal malice against the officers whom he shot If there had been any personal malice, Mangal Panday's name would have been in the list of assassins and not of martyrs But Mangal Panday's brave deed was done through devotion to a high and noble principle His sword came out of its scabbard to defend his country and religion, "thinking alike of victory and defeat," as the Bhagavat Gita enjoins He came out with the firm resolution to die rather than face the insult to his country and religion In this his bold attempt, his

bravery as well as his patriotism are worthy of the highest praise. He was condemned to be hanged. The 8th of April was the day fixed for the execution. Whatever might be the inspiring splendour in the actual blood of martyrs, the very names of martyrs inspire us with noble sentiments! What then must be the power of the martyr over those who beheld him when he was before them in flesh and blood ready to undergo martyrdom? It is no wonder that a divine love for him inspired all those who saw Mangal Panday. Not even a low class man could be found in the whole of Parrackpore to act as executioner! At last four hangmen had to be brought from Calcutta to do the dirty work! Mangal Panday was carried to the scaffold on the morning of the 8th surrounded by soldiers. He walked with a steady step through the ranks and ascended the scaffold. While he repeated once more that he will never give out the names of any of the conspirators, the noose dropped and the glorious soul of Mangal Panday left the body and went to Heaven!

This was the first skirmish of the Revolutionary War and so died the first martyr of 1857. We always ought to remember with pride in our heart the name of Mangal Panday whose blood was the source of the river of martyrdom. The seed of freedom that had been sown for the three years and more was first watered with hot blood from the body of Mangal Panday. When the time comes to get its crop, let us not forget who first boldly came forward to nourish it!

Mangal Panday is gone, but his spirit has spread all over Hindusthan and the principle for which he fought has become immortal! He gave not only his blood but his sacred name also to the Revolution! It has become a nickname for all those who fought for religion and country in the war of 1857 with friends and foes alike

called by the appellation of "Panday"[1] Let every mother teach her son the story of this hero with pride[2]

Bahadurshah—Proud Father

When Delhi was recaptured by the British the British general despite a pledge to safeguard the life of two sons of Bahadurshah hanged them and presented their heads on a covered plate saying "The British Government have sent your pension which was discontinued sometime ago" The Emperor though naturally moved by the treachery and cruelty of British general said in all royal dignity—men of honour and tradition give birth to children for such a day"

The British beast was ashamed to witness the courage and pride of Bahadurshah

Life sentence for Bandematram

Today our leaders sing songs of common wealth ties and British friendship Let us not forget they sentenced our youngmen to life transportation for shouting Bande matram (I bow to the mother) One Madan Lal a 12 years old boy of Gujrat was sentenced to life imprisonment, a Rawalpindi boy of ten years was sentenced to seven years in Delhi Reformatory (which then used to breed boy criminals)

Here is a record from my scrap book which gives the story of a brave south Indian sentenced to life transportation for shouting Bandematram This is from a speech by a leader at the christening of a ship to commemorate the name of this brave youngman, Chidambaram Pillay

"Chidambaram Pillay was one with whom I had the honour and pleasure of very close association May his

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1 The name has become a recognised distinction for the rebellious Sepoys throughout India —Charles Ball

This name was the origin of the Sepoys generally being called [illegible] —Lord Roberts's [illegible]

2 Savarkar's War of Indian Independence

spirit bless our enterprise today This vessel shall bear his famous name I can imagine him looking on now at this function and at me with his large eyes full of tears of joy not unmixed h generous amusement The house of Harvey and the people that ran the B I S N Company looked upon Ch dámb ram Pillay as a terrible enemy and got h m tried f r sed tion and sentenced to trans portation for l fe The judgment was re d all over India with ind gnation and horror The High Court reduced the sentence to s x years mpri onment His offence was that he m de the peopl of Tut corin say *Bande Mataram* This v as 40 years go

Kumarsingh s Offering to Ganga

At M nohar Kumar S ngl s forces suffered defeat losing also many elepl nts and amm in tion and food supplies B t Kumar Sin l s her t and ll rem ned as mu h uncon quer d and uncong ierable as ever For no s oner he saw the igns of a cru hing defeat than he put into execution the same tactics th t l e l ad h therto l een purs ing He di ded h s troops into sm ll bands and as each d vision effected ts retreat from tl e losin l attle field by a different route the p r it of the enemy v as frustrated Kumar l ad gi en the captain of the different l ands definite instructions to meet at a pre arranged place at a fixed hour and lo l e the l o ir struck Kumar S gh s forces had come to eth r and v re r ady for their march This place v l ere tl ey met v a so c mpletely hid len from the enemy that the ictor y of the En lish as altogether barren of any result l so the En lish commander l ad to stop at the ill ge of M nohar tself to ascertain the v hereabouts of K m r Sin h s rmy v h le Kum r Singh

and his forces were all the while marching nearer and nearer to the banks of the Ganges!

Nearer and nearer to the banks of the Ganges! Nay now, he has won the terrible race and actually reached the banks of the Ganges. The English forces were also close upon his rear. But as his forces were now greatly reduced, he decided that it was not wise to fight the enemy and so he now pursued quite different tactics. He spread a rumour all over the province that, owing to the scarcity of boats, his forces were going to cross the Ganges on the backs of elephants somewhere near a place called Balila. The English scouts brought the news to the general who must have felt triumphant of the efficiency of his intelligence department! How can now this rebel chief succeed in crossing the Ganges when my scouts have enabled me to know the exact place where he intends to cross the river?—He is doomed to be drowned along with his elephants! So, the British general, with his white forces, went to Balila and kept himself in concealment, expecting every moment to pounce upon the unwieldy elephants of Kumar Singh as soon as they would appear. Brave soldiers! Enjoying all the while the sweet prospects of success, conceal yourselves near Balila till the looked for enemy comes! There, seven miles below this very spot, is Kumar Singh actually crossing the river Ganges! Having duped the English by the story of the elephants and Balila, the Raja got together as many boats as he wanted and, from the Ghat of Shivapur, he began to cross the sacred Bhagirathi at night. The duped foe, awaked to this fact, got extremely irritated and, hurriedly marching from Balila reached Shivapur and even succeeded in capturing a boat belonging to the Raja—but that was the last boat! The whole army had already been sent on the other side and in a minute or two the chieftain too, having supervised the crossing of the army, would have crossed the river himself. But alas! What a

calam ty this one moment has broi ght with it ! *While this hero of the nation the pride of chi alry the sword of Liberty — Ran Ki ma Si gh was in the middle of the stream a bullet shot f om the e emy s g ins entered his wrist ! But old as he was the octo enarian leader did not mind it at all ! And when ampu ation was deemed necessary with his own land — the hand that was rot wou ded—Kumar Singh unshe thed his swo d lopped off the wounded a m at the elbow nd threw it into the sacred Ganges s ying Accept thou Mother this last sac ifice of a lo'n son !*

Though nnumerable are the people who have addressed the Ganges as Mother it is Kumar—this b ve son of G ng and such as he th t make the motherhood of the sacr d Ganges fruitf l and glor ous A the poet says innumerable are the stars that are in the sky but it i the moon alone that adorns it and makes it lovely !

After offering this sacrifice to the Mother Ganges this distingui hed son succeeded in crossing the river without further trouble from the English army General Douglas chased Kumar Singh who gave a tough fi ht to the British at village Naghai Inspite of lack of guns Kumar Singh s forces won the battle

Having vanquished his foe completely and thoroughly the 80 years old chief triumphantly entered again his Palace at Jagdishpur on the 23rd of April crowned with fresh laurels This was his last entrance The wound caused by the amputation of his hand proved fatal and he died under the fla of freedom three days after victory

Generous Lakhshm bai

Tribute By the Enemy

Rani Lakhshmi Bai was not only the best and the bravest but she was generous to the enemy as is evid nt from the evidence of an Englishman who was given shelter by Rani of Jhansi in 1857 war

Mr C A Kincaid has cleared the existing misconceptions about Rani Lakhshmibai of Jhansi in a paper published in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* of Great Britain and Ireland Kincaid says

"Born in November, 1835, and killed in June, 1858, she was not quite twenty three when she fell She has been severely treated by English historians, who have called her murderess, and rebel and mutineer But my honoured friend the late Rao Bahadur Parasnis has in his Marathi biography of the Queen insisted that she had nothing to do with the massacre of the English"

Kincaid relies on a letter written on 20th April, 1889 to Damodar Rao, the Rani s adopted son, by a Mr Martin quoted by Mr Parasnis Mr Martin was alive when Parasnis' book was published He somehow escaped from the massacre, and with another Englishman and an English lady was hidden by the queen in her palace and saved The letter runs

"Your poor mother was very unjustly and cruelly dealt with, and no one knows her true case as I do The poor thing took no part whatever in the massacre of the European residents of Jhansi in June, 1857 On the contrary, she supplied them with food for two days after they had gone into the Fort—got a hund ed matchlock men from Karrara and sent them to assist us, but after being kept a day in the Fort they were sent away in the evening She then advised Major Skeene and Captain Gordon to fly at once to Dattia and place themselves under the protection of the Raja, but even this they would not do and finally they were all massacred by our own troops, the police and the jail establishments"

Kincaid concludes his paper in the following words

"This letter seems to me to dispose of the charge that she was a murderess Was she a mutineer? No bec

she was not either in the army or the navy Was she a rebel? This is a more difficult question to answer Lakshmibai was born at Benares and was a subject of the Maharaja of Benares She became by marriage a subject of the Raja of Jhansi Unless by losing her throne she became a British subject she cannot be called a rebel I prefer to think of her as a young and gallant lady who forced by events beyond her control joined the Nana Sahib and fell on the field of honour fighting for a lost cause Others similarly unfortunate have yet received their need of praise but she gained nothing but hatred and obloquy Still the great soldier who defeated her and her allies penned an epitaph that she would not have disdained Sir Hugh Rose wrote in his general orders after her death The best man on the side of the enemy was the Rani of Jhansi

The Modern Review
Nov., 1913

Dhingra s Message from the Gallows

When Madanlal Dhingra embraced the gallows on 17th August 1909 in the enemy s home he said —

MY LAST WISH IS THAT I SHOULD BE BORN AGAIN OF THE SAME MOTHER (BHARAT) AND THAT I SHOULD DIE SIMILARLY FOR HER AGAIN

Dhingra s wish that his body be cremated according to Hindu rites and no non Hindu should touch his body was not granted by the rulers and his body was buried His wish that his clothes and articles be sold and the money donated to National Fund was also rejected by the rulers The British elephant thus took revenge on the body of the great hero of Hind

The Banned Statement

His statement which was confiscated and banned was

published by an Irish assistant editor in the Daily news It read as follows —

> I admit the other day I attempted to shed English blood as an humble revenge for the inhuman hangings and deportations of patriotic Indian youths
> I believe that a nation held in bondage with the help of foreign bayonets is in a perpetual state of war Since open battle is rendered impossible to a disarmed race, I attacked by surprised, since the guns were denied to me, I drew forth my pistol and fired"

> "As a Hindu I feel that a wrong done to my country is an insult to God"

Dhingra declared —

> "The war of independence will continue between India and England so long as the English and Hindu races last (if this present unnatural relation does not cease)"

The Police had taken all precautions to see that the statement could never be published but Veer Savarkar who was Dhingra's guru was not only able to get the statement published but also told Dhingra about it at the farewell meeting in Brixton jail on July 22

Ireland Honours Dhingra

While Madanlal s father (a toady) denounced him and his brother was made to disown him at a London meeting, Dhingra s deed thrilled the entire world Huge placards from Irish papers paid glowing tributes to Dhingra "Ireland honours Madan Lal Dhingra who was proud to lay down his life for the sake of his country

Mr Blunt author of Secret History of English Occupation of Egypt wrote that Dhingra seems to have at

last convinced the royal friends that there is something wrong with th state of India People talk about political assasinat ons as defeating its own end but that is nonsence it is just the shock needed to convince selfish rulers that selfishness has its limits of imprudence It is like that other fiction that England never y elds to threats My experience is that when England has her face v ell slapped he apologises not before Blunt further wrote that no Christian martyr ever faced his judges more fearlessly or with greater dign ty and remarked that the day of Dl ngra s execution would be reg rded as one of martyrdom in Ind a for generation

Lloyd George and Churchill Adm re[4]

While Dh ngra s father brother and a host of Ind n boot l ckers in England denounced Dhingra s hero c act Lloyd George expre sed to Winston Churchill his highest adm rat on of Dhin ra s patriotism Cl urchill shared the same vie s and quoted v ith admiration Dhingra s last v ords as the finest e er uttered in the name of patriotism They compared Dl ingra v ith Pl tarch s immortal heroes

Lala Hardyal v rote in the first i sue of the Bande Matram started by Madam Cama —

In t mes to come when the British Empire in India hall have been reduced to dust and ashes Dhingra s monum nts v ll adorn the qu res of our chief towns recalling to the memory of o r cl ildren the noble life and nol le death of one who laid down his life in a far off land for the cause of Mother India [6]

4 W S B nt My D P t H P 6

5 H d P 53

6 S va kar l f mes

Bravest Daughter of Bengal

Not men alone but brave women also played their glorious part in the Quit India struggle of 1942, the most prominent among whom was the 73 years old Matangini Hazra. The troops opened fire and continued showering bullets on a peaceful procession. Brave Matangini held the National Flag firmly and went on marching in the face of bullets. The troops fired her on both hands. Her hands dropped but not the National Flag which she still held tightly under her right arm and continued marching like a lioness. She told the Indian soldiers to cease firing and resign their posts and join the freedom struggle. Then a bullet ran right through her forehead and she died a martyr's death. As she lay there in the dust sanctified by her blood, the National Flag was still in her grip, yet flying unsullied. The same tricolour flies today on what had been citadels of alien rulers.

Let us pay our homage to those who have fallen in passing through, terror to achieve triumph. And now —

Wherever there floats the Indian Flag
Let the story be told and told
Of the courage of those who made no brag
But died in the fight like soldiers bold!
Died for the leaders they had never seen
For the freedom they died to see,
Died for the glory of what had been
And the honour of India to be.

Traitor Shot In Jail

In the famous Alipur Conspiracy case of 1908 Narendra Goswami became an approver and consented to be a King's Witness as it was called in the legal jargon of the British regime. So far Naren was living with the other accused in the case, but as soon as the British Police

lutionary ideas rip ned quickly when nourished by the blood of martyrs The jailor told the mourners weep not for them who died so bravely shouting Bandematram from the gallows

Brave Martyr At 15

Another off hoot of the same Alipur Conspiracy case was the attempt on the life of Mr Kingsford an English judge who had mad himself notorio s by inflicting exemplary and v ndict ve punishments on Revolutionaries brought befo e him for tr l

Khudiram as a young boy of fifteen He s r n *a revolver and a bomb and sent to square t* Mr Kingsford Th s young boy did not Kingsford He had never seen him Besides pe form the work in a far off place Muz he had no acq aintance So Khudira sometime in reconnoitr ng tl ings for himse in finding out Mr King ford and he note his whereabo ts He dec d d t on the carriage of Mr Kingsford whe one day

He dropped his bomb from a ver fortunately that day M Kingsford w instead ts o En l sh ladies Mrs and th vehicl Both of th m w r Khud ram was arrested Wh n Khu that he had kille l the vron, p rs sorrow Th ten ler ag of the accu in the face of torture and his refus of his comrades earn d for h m a symbol of revolutionary patriotism the gallows shoutin Bandematra of Ben al ⁴ (M N C)

MARTYR'S LAST WORDS
"THANA IS CAPTURED"

The story of Midnapur is a glorious chapter in the history of Indian nationalism Midnapur produced more heroes than any district in India The homeland of 73 years old woman martyr Matangini also produced Ram Chandra Bera This brave youngman was caught hold of by the soldiers after he had received gun shots They dragged him by his legs and left him half dead in front of the Thana (Police Station) When Ram Chandra temporarily regained consciousness he forgot his wounds and somehow managed to drag his bullet—riddled body up to the outer door of the Thana His face lit up with joy of victory He cried out, "Here I am The Thana has been captured" With these words on his lips he breathed his last

"I want to Die in Peace"

An unknown martyr dying as a result of Police firing in Bengal was asked to give his name He replied "I don't care for name and fame I want to die in peace"

Such were the heroes of Bengal

Oudh Behari's Last Wish

"I want Revolution — not Peace"

"What is your last wish' was the question put by an English officer to the great Patriot Oudh Behari before he was hanged as a result of Hardinge Bomb Trial He replied " The end of British Imperialism "

The Officer said 'Be peaceful, this is the last day of your life, die in peace, there is no use talking about other things"

Oudh Behari told him ' What, you say peace? I want the country to be set on fire so that you Britishers and our slavery too and, a free India emerge the ashes I want revolution, not peace '

He jumped to the gallows shouting Bande matram

He Laughed at Death

In the same trial when Head Master Amir Chand of Cambridge Mission School Delhi was sentenced to death he heartily laughed The judge paid a glowing tribute to the national hero in the following words —

It must be borne in mind that patriots of Amir Chand s type are often except in regard to the monomania possessing them estimable men and of blameless public life

Maintained Family Tradition

Bhai Balmokand was another hero sentenced to death in the same trial His ancestor Bhai Mati Das had been sawed to death by Aurangzeb in Delhi Bhai Balmokand greeted the death sentence with the following words I am happy to lay down my life in the same city where my ancestor Bhai Mati Das sacrificed himself for India s freedom I am lucky to have a similar opportunity to serve Mother India

Wife Dies a Sati

Shrimati Ram Rakhi (His wife) died a true Sati s death the day her husband was hanged Since her husband told her he was being given sand mixed bread in jail and made to sleep inside a dark cell in the burning heat of Delhi in summer she was taking sand mixed bre d and sleeping in a closed cell to share the hardship her beloved husband was suffering She fell ill and could not even have la t Darshan of her husband When she heard the groans of family members she could feel that her lord had been executed Her face beamed with love pride and joy and she decided to follow her husband by perf rm ng Sati like a brave Rajput woman She dressed herself in her wedding Saree Her relations were shocked but the unique light of love that radiated on

her face made them speechless She sat on a platform, prayed to join her husband in heaven and her prayer was instantaneously accepted and her soul joined her husband's within a few minutes This was the magic of true love and patriotism

Of such stuff were the daughters of revolutionary India made Alas ! Today they are victims of ball room dances, drink and the devilish wolves who dominate the lives of these dens of debautchery

Patriotic Garhwali Soldiers

In the history of Indian Army the 18th Garhwal Rifles will always go down as a body of Patriots who led by Thakur Chandan Singh refused to shoot at unarmed citizens of Peshawar and faced long term imprisonments in 1930

The discontent arising out of the treatment accorded to the people had spread even among the Indian soldiers This appeared when 17 men of the 18th Garhwal Rifles were placed on trial at Abbotabad on a charge of disobeying orders during the Peshawar disturbances They were charged with joining in a mutiny, in that they together at Peshawar on April 24, when the 2nd battalion 18th Garhwal Rifles had been ordered to proceed to Peshawar City at 4 P M joined in a mutiny, by refusing to march from their company lines when ordered to do so The statement they made in refusing to obey the order to proceed to Peshawar was as follows —

REVOLUTIONARY HEROISM

Shri Pandurang Khankhoje India s most adventurous revolutionary who fought India s freedom battle in many lands and was a secretary of the glorious Ghaddar Party met me in Mexico and told m the whole tory of Indian Revol itionary Heroes in Am rica Europ and Asia (which will be printed in the near future) Here I want to mention how wonderful heroism the revolutionaries had and what spirited type of youngm n joined th Ghaddar Party founded by Lala Har Dyal Khankhoje was secretary of The Secret Military Training D partment The memb rs used to work in the fields durin the day and at night they were given tr inin in manufacture of bombs and explosives Khankhoje had told the young trainees n ver to touch any thing in the laboratory without h s permission since the explosives were a dangerous thing to play w th There were fifty students learning to use explosives A young sikh member one day tried to make a bomb independently and the contents exploded hi right arm was completely blown to pieces and blood was flowing profusely He was not the least perturbed He did not cry or scream for help Instead he went to Khankhoje and told him Panditji please forgive me I broke the discipline by independently trying to make a bomb

So aying he fainted and they took him to a private hospital for treatme it

Of such fine metal were the revolutionaries made

Prince Among Revolutionaries

Khankhoje s l fe story will soon be published under the title *Memoirs of I d an Revolutio ries* Khankhoje told me Kashi Ram a millionaire member of the Ghaddar Party was a true prince among revolutionaries who sacrificed his all *for revolution* If there is any one who deserves a memorial for his services to the revolutionary party it was Kashi

Ram who gave all his wealth for the cause I worked under him on two dollars a day as a farm labourer He offered me a thousand dollars for my education but I refused saying "I shall work my way through the University and join the military school so that I can lead an armed struggle to make India free" The story of Khankhoje's armed struggle against the British Army on Indo Iran border will thrill every Indian when published in the near future

DILLI CHALO
Netaji's Inspiring Prophecy

How many of us will individually survive this war of freedom, I donot know But I do know this, that we shall ultimately win and our task will not end until our surviving heroes hold the victory parade on another graveyard of the British Empire—The Lal Qila of Delhi

there in the distance beyond that river, beyond those jungles, beyond those hills, lies the promised land—the soil from which we sprang—the land to which we shall now return

Hark ! India is calling Blood is calling blood Get up, we have no time to lose Take up your arms ! We shall carve our way through enemy s ranks, or if God wills, we shall die a martyr s death And in our last sleep we shall kiss the road that will bring our army to Delhi The road to Delhi is the road to FREEDOM

CHALO DILLI

Subhas Chandra Bose

CHAPTER III

GURU GOVIND SINGH—THE SAVIOUR

A SAGA OF SACRIFICE

GURU ARJUN DEV'S SACRIFICE
INHERITOR OF NOBLE TRADITION
TWENTY YEARS PREPARATIONS
NATIONALISM OR RELIGION
THE CALL OF SACRIFICE
FOUR SONS SACRIFICED

Guru Govind Singh and his family occupy the highest position among martyrs who made sacrifices for the freedom of their nation from foreign yoke It is necessary to say a few words about the background of the movement headed by Guru Govind Singh especially as people outside the Punjab may not be quite familiar with his great traditions

His great spiritual ancestor was Guru Nanak and the series of sacrifices made by the Gurus and their followers began even with him While quite young he left his family and went about preaching his doctrine of goodwill and peace which he considered absolutely necessary to break down the prejudices and hatred which the Hindus and Muslims of the time entertained against each other

In order to continue his work he established a Gaddi on the lines on which several other saints of India both Hindus and Muslims had done before him He appointed as his successor not one of his sons but a trustworthy disciple Lehna by name whom he gave the spiritual appellation of Angad intending thereby to convey that he was as it were a part of himself

Guru Angad continued the good work and so did his successors, Guru Amar Das and Guru Ram Das

Trouble arose in the time of Guru Arjun, the fifth to succeed to the Gaddi He tried to organise the disciples into a community and compiled a sacred book called the Granth Sahib, in which he collected the compositions of Guru Nanak and his successors as well as his own

Guru Arjun Dev's Sacrifice

This aroused suspicions in Government circles so much so that the emperor, Jehangir, began to entertain a serious hostility against him and ultimately, as described by himself in his autobiography, ordered his execution

The orders were carried out in a most inhuman manner, inflicting all sorts of tortures on the Guru As a little concession to him he was allowed to have a bath in the river Ravi flowing by the walls of the Lahore Fort in which he had been confined He entered the river but never came out having perhaps preferred to drown himself to being further tortured and meeting his death at the hands of a Muslim executioner

His son, the sixth Guru was Har Govind, a man who, judging from his exploits, was more of a political and military leader than a spiritual guide Partly moved by a sense of wrong arising from his father s execution and partly by his desire to prepare his community for armed resistance against the Moghul despotism he organised a band of soldiers recruited from among his disciples and fought several skirmishes against the imperial troops, inflicting defeats on them This was bound to rouse the indignation of the emperor, Jehangir, with the result that he was arrested and was kept a prisoner for quite a number of years in the Fort of Gwalior

His next successor, Har Rai lived a peaceful life And

his succes or the e ghth Guru Hari Krishen died in his infancy Then came the turn of Guru Tegh Bahadur ho a cended the Gaddi as the 9th Guru

By this tim the Indian empi e was being ruled by Aurangzeb who acqu red great notoriety as a persecutor of the Hindus He imposed a po l tax named Jizia on the H ndus demolished many Hindu temples building mosques on their sites and forcing many Hindu to accept Islam

The Pardit commun ty of Kashmir were the special target of his tyranny They approached Guru Tegh Bahadur and appealed to him to save th m from tyranny and per ecu tion He gave them a pati nt hearing and sa d that unless a great man f om among the Hindus sacrificed his life to save them the e seemed to be no poss bl relief for them

His infant son Go nd (later Guru Gobind Singh) was s tting by him On hearing this remark of his father he is reported to have said Revered Father who is greater than you whose sacrifice ll save the Hindus ?

Guru Tegh Bahadur eemed to have made up his mind then and th re and he told the d putation that when they were pres ed th y should declare that they would accept Islam if th ir lead r Guru Tegh Bahadur would do so

Guru Tegh Bahadur was th n summoned to Delhi and the alternatives of execution and acceptance of Islam were placed before him He scouted the idea of sacrificing his religion preferring death to apostacy

He was then executed along wi h som of his followers notab e among them being Bhai Mati Das a member of th Mohyal fam ly of Jehlum dis rict to wh ch belonged the late Bhai Parmanand as well as Bhai Balmokand who was convi ted in th Lahore Conspiracy Cas and was hanged (His insp ri g story appears in anoth r chapter His wif also performed S ti)

Inheritor of Noble Tradition

This was the past which Govind inherited and it is evident that it was not a mean asset in the glorious career upon which he was about to enter

He was too young to offer any armed resistance to the powerful empire, then being ruled by a most stern bigoted and powerful despot He considered it safe to retire to the hills and there he nurtured his wrath and prepared himself for the struggle which he contemplated to make against the tyranny of Aurangzeb

Twenty Years' Preparations

In the quiet seclusion of the Himalayan mountains the young Guru set himself first to the task of self improvement It was necessary for him to have all the advantages that education can give He called together great Pandits from Patna and Banaras and scholars of Persian from the Punjab He assiduously learned all that they could teach him and hereditary as the gift of poetry had been in his family he developed a style of Hindi poetry which has remained unsurpassed since his time He was greatly impressed by the heroic feats recorded in the epic literature in Sanskrit and stored his mind with the soul stirring legends of the Mahabharata and the Purana

He seems to have been deeply impressed by the idea which runs throughout the Puranic literature, the idea of a saviour appearing from time to time to uphold righteousness and destroy unrighteousness, to uproot evil and establish good, to destroy the oppressor and rescue the weak and the innocent In his famous book "Vichitra Natak", he has related his own story in powerful verse and declared himself as one who had taken his birth for the same purpose

The result of the twenty years seclusion that he enjoyed

in the midst of the Himalayan hill may be described in the following words —

1 He received the best practical education that the times could give and ran through the whole range of Persian and Sanskrit epic and historical literature

2 By practice and by association with the most eminent Hindi poets of the day he developed a class of warlike poetry unknown in the Punjab before which he turned to such a great account in rousing the dormant energies of his people

3 He acquired a mastery in riding and shooting being especially an adept in the use of the bow He accustomed himself to fatigue and hardy life by constantly hunting the the tiger and the wild boar in thick forests of the hills

4 He realised the miserable condition of his race and by constant meditation came to feel that he had a mission to fulfil and God had sent him for the amelioration of his nation

5 He chalked out for himself the lines on which he was to work and his plan was formed with such a decision and completeness that not a little of the policy he had settled was abandoned or changed by him throughout his chequered and stormy career

Nationalism As Religion

From this point onward the work of Guru Govind Singh can be divided into two parts viz

(i) The creation of the **Panth** and

(ii) His armed campaigns

His predecessors as stated above had done something to make a peaceful organization of their disciples but the

work of evolving a body of men inspired by high political aspirations was reserved for his exceptional genius

He realized that, greatly attached as the Hindus were to their religion in spite of being depressed and demoralised, the only way to make a nation of them was to make nationalism their religion

The first element of nationalism is unity and this was the first to receive his attention He realised that caste was a great barrier to unity He, therefore, raised his voice against the caste system as it prevailed in his time "The four castes", he said, "were like *pan supari*, *chuna* and *kutha*, none of which by itself could give ruddiness to the lips strength to the teeth or relish to the tongue The remedy was to merge all the four castes into one He removed all unevenness of religious privileges and established a theocratic democracy

The Call of Sacrifice

He embraced everyone into his fold and invited everyone to drink of the *Amrit* or nectar of the creed that he had discovered One day he held a mass meeting of his followers and at the end of his speech he drew out his sword and said in a loud voice that the goddess (who was held in great esteem by the people of the hills around) everyday asked him for a head Was there any Sikh who was prepared to lay down his head for the Goddess ?

On his appeal one Daya Ram, volunteered himself He took him by the hand into his tent where he had tied up a goat beforehand He seated the heroic Daya Ram in the tent, and slaying the goat with his own hand, came out with blood dripping from his sword

He appealed again for a head, brandishing the blood red sword in the air Another disciple came forward, and another and yet another two making five altogether

prepare l to lay down tl ir l ea l t n wo d from their leader

After h in taken tl em to the tent one by one he brought out every oi e of them alive hale i d hearty to the great wonderment of the a idience

He then admi stered *p hul* a so t of bap t sm and in a true democrat c spi t he in his own turn was baptised by them

He supplemented this m ral by other ordinances more or less of a mecl anic l nature These ere as follows —

(i) All the Sikh names ve e to end alike i e in the word Sin h (s ho)

(ii) All had to foll one for of alutat oi

(iii) Tl er v as to be io external ol ject of homage except the Gr r th Sal ib

(iv) Tl e m ltip h ity f Hindu pl ce of pilgrima e was redu d t the p l t r i g to Amrits r as the chief place of pil ri rage of the S I l s

(v) All the Sikl vere to l eep long l air and were not to cut the h ir of tl eir head or beard

(vi) They must l ays carry a sword

(vii) Tl ey must v ear a i i on bracelet as a symbol

(viii) They must v e r a *I a l h* (a sort f knickerbocker)

(ix) They mu t rry a comb in the k iot into which the Sikhs h d to u ip the l air of th ir head

Tl (l h d l e n m b r of p o ts n his service a d in orde t p e l i f llov ers v th v arl ke spirit he c mp s l n tl im cf poe ns c lled th Dassam Granth c n isti i ter al v of the Hindi versi n of the warlike stories of tl Puranas

He inspired his followers by impressing upon them that they were bound to conquer and declared that every one of his followers would be equal to a lakh & a quarter of other men. *"I shall send my sparrow and lo! the imperial hawks will fall before them.* Then alone will I be true to my name Govind Singh."

Four Sons Sacrificed

He started his military campaigns by trying a few skirmishes with the hill chieftains whom he wanted to help him in his fight against the Moghul despotism, but they refused to join him, apparently thinking that it was a hopeless task to resist Aurangzeb.

His warlike activities could not be kept a secret. The result was that the little fortress that he had built at Anandpur and where he had collected a small army was attacked and strongly besieged. Being short of provisions, he was forced to leave it with as many followers as were ready to share the troubles with him.

He took shelter in a small fortress in Chamkor but was soon ousted from there after a sharp struggle in which two of his elder sons were killed.

He managed to escape from there and after great vicissitudes he went to the Deccan and settled at Nander, a well known place in Andhra Pradesh.

During the confusion his two youngest sons fell into the hands of the enemy and were confined in the fortress of Sirhind. They were asked to embrace Islam but as they refused to give up their own faith they were buried alive in a wall. Their heroism has no parallel in world history.

When Aurangzeb heard of Guru Govind Singh's escape he summoned him to Delhi. The Guru, however, refused to comply with his wishes and wrote a stern letter to him.

couched in powerful Persian verse in which he explained to the emperor that when all remedies failed recourse to the sword was permissible and inevitable

While there he met the famous *Bairagi* Banda He made a strong appeal to him pointing out the great tyranny and oppression to which the Hindus of the country were exposed

Banda was a Rajput and it seems that Guru Govind Singh s fiery words made a great impression upon him with the result that he gave up his seclusion and went to the Punjab organised the Sikhs and fought many a victorious battle until he was overpowered by the imperial troops He was brou ht to Delhi and was executed along with a large number of his follo ers

Guru Govind Singh himself was the victim of a murderers attack by a Muslim young man who had managed to join his entourage and is held by some to have been a Moghul spy Such was the glorious chapter of sacrifices which the Gurus had launched for the protection of the Hindu community and its religion Their example was followed by their followers and thousands fell victims to the Moghul tyranny and persecution History repeated itself again in 1947 when Hindus and Sikhs wrote another golden chapter of sacrifice (See Martyrs of Partition

by Justice G D Khosla)

(Dr Gokul Chand Narang)
Ex Minister of Education
(Punjab)



CHAPTER IV

HEROES OF 1857

RANI LAKHSHMI BAI

BAHADUR SHAH AND ZINAT MAHAL

TATYA TOPE

PESHWA NANA SAHEB

DIWAN AZIMULLAHKHAN

KUNWAR SINGH

CHAPTER IV
HEROES OF 1857

RANEE LAKHSHMI BAI

Give up my Jhansi? I will not Let him try to take who dares! With this hall nge the h roic Ranee of Jhan i rose again t the Brit h and she as umed the leadership of the Revolution drove the English and began to rule at Jhan i as the Queen of the province The forces of the Revol ution had wreaked a bloody vengeance on the English people and army and left not a trace of their rule at Sagar Naog on Banda Banapur Shah_arh and Karki The people every vh re hail d the Queen as their own She then busied hers lf—in restorin order and peace in her liberated province

The Ranee s d ly life at th s per od has been described as follo vs — The Bai got i p at f ve n the morning and took a batl with fragrant *atta* After dressing—and she generally v ore a *Cha f i Sare* of f ultle s vhite—she would sit for her da ly prayers Fir t she dropped the necessary water as a *frayas h ta* for keeping hair on her head after her husban l s d ath then she u ed to worsh p the *Tulsi* in the *Tulsi* grove Then be an the *P ttl za P ja* at which the Darl ar musici ns 1 ld in n el our *Puraniks* would then start readin the *l ran* Th n Sirdars and dependents came and I e returned the r u ual lutes Being very keen of m m ry en f a ngl man among the seven I undred nd fifty who pa d their respects to her in the morning v as n t pr nt the very r ext day the Bai would not f l t n quir I y h d d not c me the previous day After the wo l ip f God began the lunch After lunch she o l l take n h u s siesta unless there was urgent v ork to d Th n he would order the presents of the morning to be I rou ht l ef re her which was done on silver trays covere l r v ith ilk cloths Those things that she liked she ac ept l th others were g ven over to the *Ko hicalla* (minister f the pr ents departm nt) for d stri bution amongst l er er nt At three h v ent to the

Durbar, when she usually put on male attire She wore a *Pyjama*, a coat of dark blue, a cap on the head, and a beautiful turban on the top of it a *dupata* of embroidered cloth round the slender waist, and the sword decked with gems by her side Attired in this way, this fair woman looked like Gauri herself Sometimes, she wore the female dress After her husband's death, she never wore *reth* or similar ornaments Her hands had round them bangles of diamond, she wore a small necklace of pearls round her neck and a diamond ring on her little finger These were the only jewels worn by the Bai Sahib Her hair was gathered up together behind She wore a white *saree* and a plain white bodice Thus, sometimes in male attire and sometimes in female, the Bai Sahib used to honour the Durbar by her presence Those assembled in Durbar never used to see her person For the room in which she sat was separate from, and only opened into, the Durbar hall Gold carving adorned the doors, and over these fell gracefully the *chirk* curtain, embroidered with gold cloths In this room sat the Bai Sahib on a *gadi* of soft down leaning on a soft pillow Outside the door, two pages with maces of silver and gold always attended Opposite the room, Lakshman Rao Dewanji stood with a bundle of important documents in his hand and beyond him sat the Registrars of the Durbar Being very keen and intelligent, the Bai quickly grasped every matter brought before her, and her orders were clear and definite and to the point Sometimes she wrote her orders out herself She was very careful in affairs of justice and decided civil and criminal cases alike with great ability Ranee Sahib worshipped Mahalakshmi devoutly The temple of that Goddess was situated on the banks of a lake filled with lotus flowers, and every Friday and Tuesday the Bai visited the temple One day, it so happened that after the Bai had returned from the temple and was passing through the south gate she saw thousands of beggars blocking the passage and creating a disturbance So she inquired of the Minister

Lakshman Rao Pande the reason of this He inquired and informed her that the people were very poor, and that they suffered immensely on account of excessive cold and that therefore they requested that th Bai would kindly consider their condition The Bai felt very grieved for these poor people and she at once issued orders—kind hearted that she was—that on the fourth day from thence a gathering of beggars should take place where every one should be provided with a thick coat and a cap and a blanket either white or black The very next day all the tailors of th town were given orders to make caps and coats On the day appointed it was proclaimed that all the beggars were to gather in front of the palace Poor people too had been included in this gathering All were given clothes by the Ba and they went away satisfied In the fight with Nathe Khan when the wounded m n were brought into the city the Bai herself would nsist on being present when their wounds were being dressed Her very presence soothed their pain and they felt themselves sufficiently rewarded by the kind and sympathetic interest she took in their well being The Ranee grieved at their grief gave them ornaments and medals patted them and showed such sympathy that others instead of being disheartened at the sight of these wounded soldiers felt that they could even give up their lives for the sake of the Ranee The grandeur of the Bai s processions surpasses description On the occasions of the visits to the temple of Mahalakhshmi she started sometimes in a palanquin and sometimes on horseback When in the palanquin the palanquin would be covered with curtains of gold and embroidered cloths tied with gold n ribbon When she was on horse back in male attire the end of a thin and beautiful *shela* floated on her back and it fitted her admirably The national flag of freedom was carried before her with the band playing military music T o hundred Europeans followed the flag and a hundred horsemen rode before and behind her With the palanquin came the *karbhans*

ministers, feudatories, and other officers like Bhayya Sahib Upasane, and others either rode or followed on foot. Sometimes troops accompanied the procession. When the Bai started from the palace, the *choughada* on the fort made sweet music. The *choughada* of the *nagarkhana* of Mahalakshmi started at the same time.'[1]

Bahadurshah and Zinat Mahal

Bahadurshah, 'Zafar', the last moghul king was a quiet unassuming old man in his dotage, well content to be left alone to his ghazals. The correspondent of the "London Times", who interviewed him after his capture remarks that he was a poet whose merit did not depend on flattery for its cultivation. 'In a dingy passage there sat crouched on his haunches, a diminutive old man, dressed in an ordinary and rather dirty muslin tunic. Rather an infirm creature, who was the symbol of an extinguished Empire. I tried in vain to let my imagination find the Timur in him.'

When on 11th May, 1857, the Sepoys arrived from Meerut to proclaim him as the Moghul Emperor of India, Bahadur Shah was scared. At first he resisted with vigour any attempt to make him the focal point of the struggle. The credit for making him a participant in the Mutiny goes to his brave young Queen Zeenat Mahal.

The aged King never had any control over the army that wanted him as Emperor and when, by the middle of August, it became certain that Delhi was sure to be captured by the British Arms, Bahadur Shah had a fleeting desire to come out of his palace and die fighting. But his advanced age made his ambition futile and he sought asylum with his young Queen Zeenat Mahal and two sons in Humayun tomb in Delhi.

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1. D B Parasnis *Life of Lakshmibai*, page 117 151
Read her story of brave struggle in the chapter "Heroines of Ind

There he was captured by Major Hodson of the British Army and was brought to trial on January 27 1858 in the Privy Council Chamber of his own Palace. The charges against him were as follows: making war against the British Government; with abetting rebellion; with proclaiming himself as the sovereign of India; with causing or being accessory to the death of 49 people of British blood or European descent. The trial lasted for forty days and the Court composed of Britishers found him guilty of the main points of the charges and sentenced him to transportation for life.

He was taken to Burma with his Queen Zeenat Mahal for spending his exile and there he lived for 24 years and died in 1882. After the fall of Burma to the Japanese in 1942 Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose erected a memorial for the dead monarch in Rangoon. Bahadur Shah's descendants to whom a nominal pension is still being paid by the Government of India lived in Burma till the advent of freedom. After India attained Independence they migrated to India and Pakistan.

Tatya Tope (By Basant Varkhedkar)

(The author has made a special study of the fight for Indian Independence and visited the historic centres where all the major events took place and collected the historical facts. He has written a Marathi Novel just published entitled Sattavancha Senanik —The Warrior of 1857 which gives the life story of Tatya Tope.)

Of all the figures in the history of the struggle for Indian Freedom Tatya Tope stands as a towering personality. His life story has been a legend and left a lasting impression on the canvas of the history of the struggle for freedom.

A few miles away from Gwalior is a little town called Sipri where on the 18th April 1859 at about five in the evening Tatya Tope was hanged. He ascended the gallows with courage and dignity. He looked confident about his role in life. When his chains were removed he suggested that he

would of his own accord ascend the gallows and embrace death with open eyes As he did so, thousands of people including Englishmen paid him their homage Some English women prayed as he was being hanged by General Meade When Meade and his soldiers left the place the English women moved on to the dead body and collected a lock of his hair to preserve it in their lockets so as to commemorate the memory of the great soul

The scene was as a matter of fact preceded by a drama great in human elements

Before a military court Tatya Tope was tried on three charges, (i) of disloyalty, (ii) of waging a war and (iii) of having massacred innocent English women and children at Cawnpore The first two charges were answered by Tatya Tope himself while the third had to be withdrawn because Meade could not get any evidence to prove that charge Not only that, but it appears English women rather came forth to give evidence to the contrary The replies Tatya Tope gave to the first two charges are significantly of interest even today His reply to the first charge may remind one of the defence late Bhulabhai Desai gave in the famous INA trials He said to General Meade that he never had offered his loyalties to the English He was never a British citizen He never had taken the British as his masters Their power no doubt grew in his life time and practically the whole of India went under their sway But his contention was, he never for himself admitted their rule He had given his loyalties to the Peshwa and he argued that they were alone competent to judge him on this account The charge of disloyalty, he declared, could not at all be made against him The reply he gave to the second charge was brilliant He admitted the charge of having waged the war but he contended, the punishment that may be meted out to him should as well be awarded to those who were trying him on this charge He expressed his desire for being blasted at the mouth of a cannon

The statement that was put on record proved none of the charges that were levelled a ainst him Meade had neither any satisfacto y rejoinder to the replies Tatya Tope had g ven It appears the warm admiration this great soul had won from the English women in the first instance for his military genius and secondly for his dignity and courage shown during his trial had made Meade uneasy He was still obsessed with the fear that Tatya Tope had unusual powers of casting a spell on Indian soldiers even in Enemy camps and the British could never be safe till he was done away with Meade obviously acted with an uneasy haste He sentenced Tatya Tope to death without proving any charge substantially He also hastened his execution A number of Englishwomen appealed to Meade but Meade remained indifferent They led a deputation to Lord Canning the then Governor General of India requesting him to quash his death sentence The death sentence was also quashed but unfortunately the order came six days after the execution Meade was not prepared to wait till he re eived any reply from Lord Canning to the petition the deputation of the Englishw omen had forwarded The situation heigh tened sympathies for Tatya Tope and he met his death in the Enemy camp almost in an epic manner

In the l ght of this epic scene his heroic personality must be viewed He w as above everything a champion of humanity There is ample evidence to prove that in those bloody days of Cawnpore he held aloft the banner of human ity with remarkable courage The rescue deal struck with Sir Hugh Wheeler was principally an attainment of his He could clearly distinguish a war of independence from a sheer mob frenzy violence and human indignity If English *women could ascertain that he was positively free of the* charge of inhuman atrocities it is evident his role of freedom fighter noble in all human aspects was very well marked

The responsibility of rescuing the entire lot of English people trapped by the sadist mass of mutineers in the hospital premises of Cawnpore for more than three weeks was placed on him, which clearly reflects the confidence both Nana Saheb and the English people could have in him. And if the same confidence could be expressed by the English at the time of his execution, it is clearly established that he had proved himself worthy of the trust in spite of the overwhelming circumstances in which the entire lot of those four hundred and fifty unfortunate English people were butchered on the banks of the Ganges.

Military Genius

Referring to the crushing defeat General Windham suffered at the hands of Tatya Tope, English historians have unreservedly showered praise on his military genius. Where he attained his military skill no one can tell. He was just a clerk in the kachheri of the Peshwas. He was no doubt, a likeable person, also resourceful and for these qualities probably Bajirao loved him and one day presented to him the cap studded with nine precious jewels, an event which brought a change in his *name—that he became* Tatya "Tope" one who puts on the cap, topi. His rise was most meteoric. The mutineers were completely routed in about three months. The Peshwas could not hold on to Cawnpore. It was all confusion and chaos, and the mutineers could see no hope. At this juncture Tatya Tope started his career. The only asset he had was that he was an officially announced General of the Peshwas. Though Peshwas had no armies, Tatya Tope had the resourcefulness of exploiting his nomination for attracting soldiers to his fold. A number of regiments were disbanded and the soldiers thrown out of employment wandered aimlessly. From out of these wandering soldiers Tatya Tope constituted his first batch of soldiers. The beginning was most humble. He employed these handful of soldiers for his swift hit and go tactics. The process proved no

effective The handful could do havoc The hu e mass of English army could not move as swiftly as his handful guerillas could The English generals were perplexed but these achievements invoked in innumerable mutineers a fresh zeal He could win more supporters He then captured the fort of Kalpi His ways were Napoleonic He would do what looked impos ible and take his enemy by surprise Kalpi was one of the most difficult fortres es and that Tatya Tope captured in a manner which was unthinkable to those who held it After capturing the fort of Kalpi Tatya Tope first set up a civic administration His organising capacity was infinite and his imagination quick He made the little kingdom self sufficient and built a huge reservoir of strength both civic and military His next bid was to recapture Cawnpore

The defeat he gave to the stalwart ace Engl h General Windham is a great event in the history of mil tary manoeuvres It was a well planned move His military care r cont nued for about two years Both in times of victory and defeat he showed extraordinary military skill and the credit for sustaining the w r of independence for a period of about two years goes mainly to his capacity to hold on and save at the time of retreat He was at times without any followers At times his armies swelled to the extent of thirty thou and During the l st ten months of his career he swept nearly a thousand miles and in the innumerable encounters he had with th ho t of En li h generals he repeatedly outwitted them all H was trapped again and again but until he was betrayed by his most trusted comrade Man Singh he could never be caught

It is he who gave the mutiny the shape of a war of independence When he captured Kalpi he had before his mind the pattern that Shivaji had worked out He wanted to build a state round an impenetrable fort. He depended largely on the p incipalities who had suffered frustration

under the British on slaught After the fall of Gwalior he derived his strength only from the soldiers inspired by an ideal This strength also failed him When Queen Victoria gave amnesty to soldiers who had revolted, and advised them to return home, they left him almost en bloc His last experiment was of organising every little village for self defence and self rule This experiment was cut short by Man Singh who handed him over to Meade with a vain hope that the latter would place him in some high position

Selfless

Tatya Tope was a commoner The princes who joined the mutiny were interested in winning their own kingdoms or pensions They derived benefit from the mutiny when they could and when they found the British once again prosperous they turned overnight as enthusiastic supporters of the English Tatya Tope viewed things differently He had nothing to gain for himself He was selfless to that extent He left happy home once for all, never to return again In complete self abandonment this commoner devoted himself to the talks of evolving the ideas of freedom and of searching for the germs of democracy He is a forerunner of this tradition with which India shines today

We know nothing about Tatya Tope s childhood or his personal life He grew almost unwatched He was second among eight brothers No other brother ever made any mark His father Pandurangpant Yovalolkar was superintendent over the stores of the Peshwas Obviously Tatya had most affectionate regards for his father His father was alive at the time of his execution When Meade asked him his last desire he said, 'please do not harass my old father He had one son by name Wasudeo and one daughter by name Manorama She was married and the last blessing Tatya Tope had was, he had a grandson from her We know nothing about his wife In August 1857 when the palace of the Peshwas in Brahmawart was set on fire two

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The defeat he gave to the stalwart ace English General Windham is a great event in the history of military manoeuvres It was a well planned move His military career continued for about two years Both in times of victory and defeat he showed extraordinary military skill and the credit for sustaining the war of independence for a period of about two years goes mainly to his capacity to hold on and save at the time of retreat He was at times without any followers At times his armies swelled to the extent of thirty thousand During the last ten months of his career he swept nearly a thousand miles and in the innumerable encounters he had with the host of English generals he repeatedly outwitted them all He was trapped again and again but until he was betrayed by his most trusted comrade Man Singh he could never be caught

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was, while leaving Nepal and crossing over to India through the Terai jungles. The British have accepted this version of his death and on official records the same explanation still stands.

But even British historians are not sure of the fact that Nanasaheb died in this way, for Malleson, a renowned British authority on the Mutiny, remarks that, unfortunately nothing definite is known as to what happened to Nanasaheb. Further an entry in the diary of Lord Montague brings out the fact that he had at one time refused an informant's offer to provide clues leading to the capture of Nanasaheb, if he was given a lakh of rupees. This sum was much higher than the officially proclaimed reward for the capture of the rebel leader, dead or alive and Lord Montague was forced to refuse the offer.

Nana Saheb Returns

According to this version Nana Saheb was forced to quit the haven of Nepal on the insistence of the Ruler. He left with some of his associates, crossed the Terai hills, created a rumour that he was killed by a tiger, reached the seashore at Kutch by a devious route and finally reached the city of Morvi with only two of his associates Yatin Shah and Baldev Rambhuva. He lived in Morvi in disguise for two years and later moved to a cave near Sihor, a small town near Bhavnagar, where he lived for 45 years, until his death in 1903.

People who moved very closely with him during this period have provided an account of the manner in which he spent his last days. The blacksmith who was called to furbish the cave in which Nana Saheb passed his days, died as recently as 1951 and stated that the Peshwa lived under an assumed name Dayanand Yogindra.

Mahashankar Upadhyaya, a Brahmin who served the

stranger as a bearer claims to have seen scars of bayonet wounds and bullet marks on his body An old woman by name Jarib hen who worked for Dayanand Yogindra affirm that a few days before his death he revealed t her that he was Nanasaheb Peshwa in exile Jaribehen is still alive

Many of Dayanand s personal effects such as idols are still in Sihor A deep large cave which Nanasaheb is believed to have made and lived s decorated and panelled with mas ive ch elled idols An image of the t iree headed god Dattatreya is craved on on ing of the cav Metal images similar to the ones worshipped in Maharashtra a pair of Kolhapuri chappals and a set of vooden clubs of the type used in Mahara htra have contributed very larg ly to the belief th t the noble son of India passed away in S hor In fact on August 3 every year peopl from the surrounding areas as emble at the Sam dhi of Nana Saheb (?) at Sihor to pay homa e to the ma tyrs and vi it the house of late Mavji Bhai Bhatt where Nana Saheb is said to have breathed his last

But an entry in the diary of Azimullah Khan one time adviser of Nanasaheb says that Na iasaheb lived in the to vn of Pratapgarh in Uttar Pradesh till 1926 Azimullah Khan too lived ith him till the Peshwa died and afterwards left the city for destinations unknown Decades after the de th of Nanasaheb the diary of Azimullah Khan came to th hands of Maha nahopadhy ya Potdar at Poona and is bein critically studied K R N Swamy (The Tribune)

Dewan Azimullah Knan

Of the impo rtant characters in the Revolutionary War of 1857 the n me of Azimullah Khan is one of the most memorable Amon the keen intellects and minds that first

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War of Independence V D Savarkar

conceived the idea of the War of Independence, Azimullah must be given a prominent place. And among the many plans by which the various phases of the Revolution were developed, the plans of Azimullah deserve special notice.

Azimullah was very poor by birth. He rose gradually on the strength of his own merits and at last became the trusted adviser of Nana Saheb. His early poverty was such that he served as a waiter in the household of an Englishman. Even while in such a low state, the fire of ambition was always burning in his heart. He took advantage of his profession as a *Baverchi* in order to learn foreign languages, and in a short time he had learned to speak English and French with fluency. After acquiring a knowledge of both these languages, Azimullah left the service of the Feringhis and began to study in a school at Kanpur. By his extraordinary ability he soon became a teacher at the self-same school. While still serving as a teacher in the Government school at Kanpur, his reputation as an able scholar reached the ears of Nana Saheb and he was introduced at the Brahmavarta Durbar. Once, at the Durbar, his wise counsels were appreciated and valued by Nana Saheb, who would take no important step without first consulting Azimullah. In 1854 he was made the chief representative of Nana Saheb and sent to England. His face was noble, his speech sweet and silvery. Knowing very well the customs and manners of contemporary English life, he soon became very popular among Londoners. Attracted by his pleasant and silvery voice, his spirited mien and Oriental magnificence, several young English women fell in love with Azimullah. There used to be a crowd in those days in the parks of London and on the beach at Brighton, to see this jewelled Indian 'Raja'. Some English women of respectable families were so much infatuated with him that even after his return to India they would send him letters couched in the most affectionate terms. When later Havelock's army captured Brahmavarta, [illegible] there the [illegible]

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charm for them India has suffered a great misfortune in forgetting Moulvi Ahmad Shah The little we know about him is only through what British chroniclers of the 'Mutiny' have written about him

Career

Moulvi Ahmad Ullah Shah, according to most of the historians, belonged to Faizabad, Gubbins is, however, of the view that "this man had come from Madras and was of a good Mohammedan family and had traversed much of upper India, exciting people to sedition "

Whether he came from Madras or from Faizabad, he was the one man, who had, with the farsightedness of a great statesman, realised the evils of British domination And so he devoted himself to the cause of national liberation He was an orator, a forceful writer and a scholar besides being a "great soldier 'The Moulvi is the only soldier," writes Malleson, 'who can boast of out manoeuvring Sir Colin Campbell twice '

He had seen that the days of feudal princes had gone And so he primarily addressed himself to the people He was constantly on the move addressing public rallies explaining his plan of action to those ready to join the ranks of fighters of freedom Amidst his hurricane tours of north India he found time to write hand-bills and booklets explaining the frightful future that lay before the country if the British succeeded in their machinations against the freedom of the country

Such was the personality of "the Moulvi that even in those days crowds up to 10,000 gathered to hear his speeches In spite of being a devout Muslim he refused to differentiate between Hindus and Muslims His aid and companion during the days of the 'Mutiny' was a Hindu youth — [illegible] Singh

The Moulvi

Writing about the leaders of the war of 1857 Col G B Malleson who participated in the campaigns says

Who all the active conspirators were may probably never be known One of them there can be no question was he who during the progress of Mutiny was known as the Moulvi The Moulvi was a very remarkable man His name was Ahmad Ullah and his native place was Faizabad in Oudh In person he was tall lean and muscular with large deep-set eyes beetle brows high aquiline nose lantern jaws Sir Thomas Seaton who enjoyed during the suppression of revolt the best means of judging him described him a man of great abilities of undaunted courage of stern determination and by far the best soldier amongst the rebels

Such was the man selected by the discontented in Oudh to sow throughout India the seeds which at a given signal should spring to active growth Of the ascertained facts respecting his action this at least has been proved that very soon after the annexation of Oudh he travelled over the north western provinces on a mission which was a mystery to European authorities that he stayed some time at Agra that he visited Delhi Meerut Patna Calcutta that in April 1857 shortly after his return he circulated seditious papers throughout Oudh that the police did not arrest him that the executive at Lucknow alarmed at his progress despatched a body of troops to seize him that taken prisoner he was tried and condemned to death that before the sentence could be executed the Mutiny broke out that escaping he became the confidential friend of the Begum of Lakhnau the trusted leader of the rebels

Chapati Scheme

That this man was the brain and the hand of the conspiracy there can I think be little doubt During his

travels he devised the scheme known as the 'Chapati Scheme'—chapatis are cakes of unleavened bread—the circulation of which from hand to hand is easy and causes no suspicion. The great hope of the Moulvi was to work upon the minds, already prone to discontent, of the sipahis. When the means of influencing the armed men in the service of the British Government should have been so matured that on a given signal, they would be prepared to rise simultaneously, the circulation of chapatis amongst the rural population of the North Western provinces would notify to them that a great rising would take place on the favourable opportunity.'

After stating that Nana Saheb was in secret correspondence with Maulvi Ahmad Shah, Malleson, referring to the Rani of Jhansi, says, "There is reason to believe that he, too, had entered into negotiations with the Moulvi and Nana Saheb before the explosion of 1857 took place"

The executive council of this conspiracy had arranged in the beginning of 1857 to act upon the sipahis by means of the greased cartridges, upon the inhabitants of the rural areas by the dissemination of chapatis.'

Treachery

After stating how this prince among patriots was treacherously done to death by Raja Jagannath Singh who had invited Moulvi Saheb for a conference in his fortress at Pawain (district Shahjahanpur) and had then dastardly attacked and killed him to please the British Government, Malleson says

"Thus died the Moulvi Ahmad Ullah of Faizabad. If a patriot is a man who plots and fights for independence, wrongfully deprived of his native country, then most certainly the Moulvi was a true patriot. He had not stained his sword by assassination, he had connived at no murders, he had fought manfully, honourably, and stubbornly in the

field against strangers who had seized his country and his memory is entitled to the respect of the brave and true hearted of all nations

Kumar Singh

In Bihar the war of Independence was led and conducted by Kumar Singh of Jagdishpur a Rajput chieftain of ancient lineage Though an old man of eighty at the time yet he was extraordinarily stout in physique and resolute in character A warrior by nature and possessed of instincts of a real general Kumar Singh proved a formidable foe of the British throughout th whole course of the war of 1857 He had been deprived of all his estate and was a staunch enemy of the British He had been in consultation with Nana Saheb at Kalp just before the break out of the war

On July 25 1857 he learned that the revolutionary forces at Danapur had successfully risen he seized the opportunity to strike a blow and joined them with all his power Though he had to face many reverses he was never vanquished On the contrary he embarrassed the British generals on many an occasion and gave them defeats More than once he threatened the whole of Western and Eastern Bihar and on one occasion he threatened Calcutta the then capital of India He had just re-entered Jagdishpur and defeated captain Le Grand on April 23 1858 when only after three days he died of a wound in his arm which had been previously amputated because of a bullet wound in the wrist [Read the story in the chapter National Heroes]

Kumar Singh was succeeded by his brave brother Amar Singh as the commander of the Revolutionary forces in Bihar Amar Singh was as capable as his brother and had supported him almost from the beginning He too continued to harass the British forces till he met the final reverse late in Nov 1858

A British Tribute

Here is a tribute by a British Army officer to the heroism and fighting instinct of Kumar Singh the eighty year old veteran of our war of Independence —

He says, "It makes me extremely ashamed to write what followed We began flying out of the jungles, leaving the battle field and being constantly beaten by the enemy Our people, dying of thirst, rushed forth at the sight of a wretched, dirty pool of water, in the most confused manner possible Just then, the horses of Kumar Singh close upon our rear Henceforth, there was no limit to our disgrace, and the disaster was complete No sense of shame was left in any one of us Everyman ran wherever he thought his safety lay Orders were thrown to the winds Discipline and drill were dead In all directions, nothing could be heard but sighs, curses and wailings Bands of Europeans dropped dead in the flight by sunstroke Nor was it possible to ask for medicine, for, the dispensary was already captured by Kumar Singh Some died there and then, the rest were cut down by the enemy, the carriers dropped the *dolis* and fled, all was confusion—all terror ! Sixteen elephants were all full laden with the burden of the wounded General Le Grand himself was shot dead by a bullet in his breast ! Soldiers running for their lives for five miles and more had now no strength, even for lifting up their guns The Sikhs, accustomed to the heat of the sun, took off the elephants and fled away ahead of all None would be with the white Out of a hundred and ninety nine whites, about eighty alone could survive this terrible massacre ! We were led into this jungle like cattle into the slaughter house, simply to be killed ! "[5]

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5 Charles Ball's *Indian Mutiny*, Vol II, page [illegible]

The forces of Kumar Singh were thus completely successful They had in spite of the fact that they had no artillery to speak of on their side routed the British forces with a terrible loss and slaughter and had captured even the two guns which the British had so proudly brou ht [6]
(War of Independence 1857)

This is Sacrifice

Today we celebrated Indepe dence Day Netaji made an insp ring speech to no less th n sixty th usand Pe ple had walked seven to ten m les to reach the meeting place

There was an i cident which I must record

At the beg nning of the meeti g Netaji was garlanded He had wound the ga l nd of fl we s ound his hand as he spoke When he finished his sti i g speech enthusiasm was fever heat the an idea st uck him He asked f a ybody was eady to buy the garla d the m ey he would r ceive would go to the Fauj funds

The first bid was one lakh of rupees In a few m nut s the fig re swelled One lakh—one and a half lakh—three lakhs—four—fou and a qua ter—fi e—six—seven lakhs!

A you g Pu jabi youth had b en the f rst bidder When the final bid of s en lakhs was bei announced he looked vexed and intent on an inne struggle As the ga land was about to be decla ed sold he jumped up and rushed to the dais I give all my wealth—all that I ha e—eve y pie that I own he shouted Subhas Babu ca ght the tremblin youth by both his hands He said Done—the ga land is yours Patriotic men like you deserve the crown of glory our Fauj shall win

But the youth had no ears for anyth ng He had clutched the ga land and was p essing it to his eyes and his heart He decl ed Now I am freed from earthly possessions I seek membersh p of the Fauj I offer my life to the cause of our country s freedom

From —

Colonel Lakhshmi s Diary entitled JAI HIND

6 The English sustained on this occasion a complete defeat of the worst kind *White s History of the Mutiny*

CHAPTER V

NAMDHARIS BLOWN WITH CANNONS

The principles of boycott and non cooperation which Mahatma Gandhi introduced (re introduced) so vigorously in our freedom movement were (originally) expounded by Guru Ram Singh for the Namdharis

Dr Rajendra Prasad

x x x x

Seventy namdharis were blown with cannons at Malerkotla by a British Deputy Commissioner without any trial

x x x x

Exactly a month before the first round of the misnamed Mutiny was fired at Meerut, Guru Ram Singh had founded on April 12 1857, a socio political sect, 'the Namdhari" in the Punjab, to fight out the British through non violent means Namdharis were thus not only the harbingers of the era of the War of Independence but they were also originators of creeds like non co-operation, swadeshi and civil disobedience which were during our times adopted as means to shake the British Empire, under Gandhiji s leadership

Guru Ram Singh's Non-co operation

Writing of Guru Ram Singh's ideology, our President Dr Rajendra Prasad (in his article published in 1935 in an issue of the Sat Yug, a Hindi daily) had compared the Guru s movement with Gandhiji s and said "Guru Ram Singh considered political freedom a part of religion The organisation of the Namdharis became very strong The principles of boycott and non-co-operation which Mahatma Gandhi introduced so vigorously in our freedom movement were expounded by Guru Ram Singh for the Namdharis"

The Guru s Non Co operation Movement was based on the following five principles

(1) Boycott of Government Services

(2) Boycott of educational institutions run by the British Government

(3) Boycott of law established by them

(4) Boycott of foreign cloth

(5) Disobedience of Government orders which one s conse ence abhorred

Strict Adherence

Namdharis adhered to these principles relig ously unti the banner of our Independence was at last unfurled o August 15 1947 The Namdhari Non Co-operation out sh nes all other boycotts of the British The Namdharis lik the descendants of Maharana Pratap so steadfastly clung t their faith that even their present Guru Maharaj Prata Singh and his sons living in such a modern age as ours hav opted to sacrifice education and other neccesuties of lif made availabl to them by a fore gn Government A Nam dhari never learns Engl sh He never attended a Govern ment aided school before Independence and never made us of the railway or even postal service

Own Postal Service

The Namdharis excelled in maintaining a well orga nised free postal service which even the British Governmen envied This service was conducted in this manner A ma would run fast and exchange the bag of letters with the nex man who would in turn shoot forth and make the post th reach th particular destination The system was in opera tion in all corners of the Punjab under a time schedule This practice was abandoned only after independence.

This century long campaign against foreign rule is also known as the Kooka Movement in history The term Kooka is a derivation from a Punjabi word "Kook" meaning screaming which Namdharis did while reciting hymns, bathing, or perfoming other religious services

The existing 50,000 Kookas retain their separate entity and show an incredible sense of unity among themselves Although an offshoot of the Sikhs, they are in appearance, distinguishable from them by an unceremonious pugree they just wrap without fashioning it after a modern Sikh's head-gear with all its essential contours, corners and other embellishments

Unlike the Sikhs they have a belief in the divinity of Guru Gobind Singh (last Guru of the Sikhs) having descended upon Guru Balak Singh and from him upon his disciple Guru Ram Singh Their present Guru Maharaj Pratap Singh is thus the fourth temporal and secular head in this line

In diet they are strict vegetarians and teetotallers Their clothes are always hand made and pure Swadeshi even to day A Namdhari's performance of 'havan' and his reverence to the Vedas and Hindu avtars place him somewhere between a Hindu and a Sikh in religious belief Protection of the cow is another irrevocable belief with a Namdhari

Unique Marriage System

Namdharis, religiously speaking, are denied the right to spend more than Rs 13 on a marriage Many a couple during the Kooka conference held in Delhi recently were wedded at an expense of one rupee and four annas each

They are again the first amongst Hindus to give birth to the ideas of equal status for women and intercaste marriage between the caste Hindus and the untouchables The first such marriage following those queer specification unknown

to the populace of medieval India was performed on January 4 1863 when the idea was merely derided as being base and unholy

Guru Ram Singh

Balak Singh hailing from N W F P was a pious soul He attracted eminent devotees from far and near Ram Singh who came from the Punjab became Balak Singh s most trusted disciple Ram Singh earned a name for him s lf and held the spiritual Gaddi after Balak Singh s death in 1862 This implied also the political headship of the Kookas

Guru Ram Singh was born on Basant Panchmi day in 1816 in a small v llage Bhaini Sahib (Ludh ana District) in a family of carpenters In his youth he joined Maharaja Ran j t Singh s army and fought in the Anglo-Sikh war of 1845 against the British at Mudki Ram Singh had resigned his job under Balak Singh s influence

After the annexation of the Punjab in 1849 and banish ment of the last Sikh King of the Punjab Dilip Singh the British were consolidating their political power in Northern India Kookas strongly resisted it under the daring lead given by Ram Singh who administered with deftness the 22 soobas (districts) whose de facto head he was with his head quarters at Bhaini Sahib which is even today the centre of Kooka activities

In these Soobas as the old Government records reveal Guru Ram Singh abolished all distinctions of caste among Sikhs advocated indiscriminate marriages of all classes en joined upon them to shun drugs and exhorted his disciples to be clean and to always speak the truth One of his ma xims was that everyone should carry a staff with him while going out and all did

Oppressive Measures

Within seven years of its inception the movement claimed three lakh followers. The British Government, alarmed at the rapid growth of the movement, took very strong measures to suppress it from 1863 onwards.

Guru Ram Singh was ordered not to move out of his headquarters. All the social and religious gatherings of Namdharis were banned, police and petty village officials were ordered to keep a strict watch over the movements of the individual Namdharis.

In 1867, Guru Ram Singh was denied permission to hold the Maghi fair at Muktsar on January 12. As a result, the fair was held at Anandpur Sahib, the sacred place of Sikhs. Here Guru Ram Singh appeared majestically with 21 of his "soobas" on horse back, and behind them came, over 2,000 of his followers on foot with drums and banners in their hands.

This was all to the distaste of the British officers who saw in it "grave signs of growing influence' of Kookas. The rulers were also alarmed at the Kookas joining in great numbers the armies of some princely states with a view to get military training and thereby to consolidate their position in the Punjab.

Enquiry

An enquiry into the political activities of Guru Ram Singh and his followers was instituted by the Government in November 1871 through Raja Shivraj Singh of Kahlupur. The report urged the desirability and necessity of the deportation of the Namdhari Guru and other chief organisers of the sect to places far away from the Punjab, and the adoption of oppressive measures against all Namdharis as the nature of the movement was political and dangerous.

The Raja also reported that he had met Kripal Singh and the younger brother of Tantya Tope

Guru Ram S ngh with his 12 soobas was arrested under the Bengal Regulation of 1818 on the same charges as were levelled against the last Mughal Emperor of India The Guru was deported to British Burma in the same Jail where Bahadur Shah passed his last days in capt vity

Relations w th Fore gn States

In order to make his political programme a success Guru Ram Singh had spread his sphere of activity in the border states of Nepal Bhutan and Kashmir Contacts were made w th the rulers through Namdhari embassies Guru Ram S ngh is also stated to have h d close contacts with the Rani of Jhansi and other leaders of the 1857 re bellion The Guru even from Jail exchanged letters with Russia through the Governor of Russian Turkistan

In 1878 the British Government unearthed a plot by Kookas against it intrigued through the Russian authori ties Gurbachan Singh Kooka was penalised for being res ponsible for carrying a communication from the Guru to Russ a Guru Ram Singh was as a result removed from Rangoon to the most tortuous jail in Mergui For thirteen long and weary years the Guru remained in solitary confine ment and at last died in 1885 according to Government records not relied upon by the Guru s followers who like some followers of Subhash Bose still believe that the Guru is alive and would one day appear on the scene to relieve them of their troubles

Then came Guru Hari Singh Guru Ram Singh s succe ssor who for 21 years was not permitted to move out of his house except on two marriage occasions He died in 1906 and was succeeded by Pratap Singh the present Guru

During the first World War in 1914 the British Govern ment tried to appease the Namdharis and offered vast land

ed grants and other concessions only against a non committal statement in favour of recruitment The offer was declined with thanks Upon this the British Government used the tyrant's rod vigorously

When the non co-operation movement was started under Gandhi's leadership Kookas joined hands freely They were happy that Gandhi was trying to follow the teachings of their Guru who used to say that 108 beads of his sacred 'mala were more powerful and effective than an equal number of gun shots Herein lie the spirit of non violence which was, for the first time and during the darkest period of India's slavery, applied by the Namdharis Gandhi took a cue from them and modified the campaign to revolutionise the social and political structure of India

(*Shiv Lal*)

CHAPTER VI

THE REVOLUTIONARY ERA

MUSLIM PIONEERS
FASHIONABLE SECRET SOCIETIES
TILAK— FATHER OF UNREST
SHYAMJI KRISHNA VARMA
SAVARKAR—BORN LEADER
LONG LIVE DHINGRA
BENGAL—BRAIN OF REVOLUTION
PARTITION OF BENGAL
AUROVINDO—SYMBOL OF REVOLT
APPROVER SHOT IN PRISON
BENGAL PARTITION NULLIFIED
LORD HARDINGE BOMBED
REVOLUTIONARY GENIUS—RASH BEHARI
MARTYRS OF KOMAGATAMARU
CONTACTS WITH GERMANY
THE FIRST I N A
ARM PLANS BUNGLED
FIRST AZAD HIND GOVERNMENT
APPEAL TO CZAR AND KHALIFA
SILK LETTER CONSPIRACY
ROWLATT BLACK LAW
NO APPEAL NO VAKIL
BENGAL REVOLUTIONARIES
BABAR AKALI HEROES
ASSEMBLY BOMB
LUCKY SIMON ESCAPES
CHITAGONG ARMOURY RAID
BENGALS BLOOD BATH
YOUNGEST HERO
LONG LIVE RAM CHANDRA

CHAPTER VI

THE REVOLUTIONARY ERA

Every progressive movement whether violent or non violent is revolutionary in essence. But in the present context by the word revolutionary is meant a person who having eschewed evolutionary methods takes to revolutionary methods dubbed as violent by the rather orthodox.

There has been a tendency among some writers of the history of the Indian National movement to ignore the revolutionary movement completely. But this short account would prove that the revolutionary movement was an organic part of the wider national movement. Although the first revolutionary of the rather modern type lived and worked before the Indian National Congress was born, the revolutionary movement cannot be separated from the wider stream of the nationalist upsurge. It greatly influenced the national movement, impregnated it with its own virility and cataclysmic speed, spurred it on to ever new heights, imparted to it its own restless soul, but that is not all. In its own turn it took colour and design from it, and tried to keep pace with it, at least in its outbursts of a mass nature.

Muslim Pioneers

Peculiarly enough the credit of being the pioneer revolutionary in India goes to some Muslims. Very few people know this fact. In 1871 the Wahabi* leader Amir Khan was exiled for life under Regulation III of 1818. This stirred the Wahabis. They submitted a petition in the Calcutta High Court praying that the exile order on Amir Khan might be cancelled and that he might be tried in an open court. The Wahabi movement, although religious in appearance, sought to oust the British from India.

* A muslim sect known for love of liberty

The Wahabis got the proceedings of the case printed in the form of a booklet and got it widely distributed through out th length and breadth of India Even Bepin Chandra Pal a great leader of Bengal wrote in his reminiscences that his imag nation was very much fired by this booklet

After a short time (on the 20th September, 1871) Mr Norman the judge who sentenced Amir Khan was stabbed dead by one Abdull a Wahab

This mi der infu iated the Europeans so much that althou h Abdulla was hanged the Europeans would not let him have a decent Muslim burial Abdulla body was *dragged f om the gibbet and burnt like that of* a Hindu Even after death he was not spared dishonour

Lord Mayo Stabbed

On the 8th of February 1872 Lord Mayo while visiting the Andaman p isons was stabbed by one Sl r Ali Sher Ali was a Wahabi and had been sentenced to transportation for life for his activities as a Wahabi revolutionary

After this the Wahabi movement w supp essed ruthlessly so much so that even in very good history books written by nationalists there is no mention of either the Wahabis or Abdulla or Sher Ali But there is no doubt about it that after 1857 the credit of being the first revolutionaries of India goes to these obscure but brave men about whose history and ideology we know next to nothing

Fashional le Societies

The liberation movement in Italy fired the imagination of Ind an youths and there was a spate of secret societies in Bengal Maharashtra and Punjab The great Reformer Raj Narain Basu fathered one such society Even the great poet T gore l ecame a member of one such society But

these secret societies being confined to the aristocracy only proved to be more fashionable than productive of any real visual results. Of course they contributed greatly to the renaissance of India in every sphere. These societies acted as ferment to many progressive tendencies in art, literature culture but judged from political overt acts of a spectacular nature their contribution was nil. So we shall ignore them in this short account, and proceed to Maharashtra where the next outburst manifested itself.

Tilak—Father of Unrest

Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was a great leader and maker of modern India. Although by tendency an erudite scholar, he was an embodiment of the philosophy of action which he so fondly preached in his writings. He was the editor of a paper called the Kesari which for a generation remained the torch bearer of nationalism. The Lokmanya was also the sponsor of the Ganapati and the Shivaji festivals. At first he originated the Ganapati Festival. The object of reviving the same was to preach nationalism under the garb of religion. After the success of this festival, he took up the Shivaji festival, a festival, avowedly political. Both these festivals were taken up by the youths of Maharashtra in great earnest, and this led to a rather powerful mass movement in Maharashtra.

Fired by the prevalent aggressively nationalistic ideas Damodar and Balakrishna Chapekars formed a society for physical and military training which they named the 'Society for the removal of obstacles to the Hindu religion.'

For them the British ruler was the enemy number one of Hindu religion as they conceived it. One Mr Rand had made himself very unpopular by his autocratic and high handling of the Plague in Poona.

This oppression of the citizens of Poona gradually enrag d the people and on the occasion of the Shivaji festival which fell on the 12th of June bitter speeches w re made

Lokamanya Tilak who presided on that occasion said Did Shivaji commit sin in killing Afzal Khan ? The answer to this question can be found in Mahabharata itself Shri Krishna s advice in the Gita is to kill even our own teachers and kinsmen No blame attaches to any person if he is doing deeds without being actuated by a desire to reap the fruits of his deeds Shri Shivaji did nothing to fill the void of his stomach With benevolent intentions he murdered Afzal Khan for the good of others If thieves enter our houses and we have not suffici nt strength to drive them out e should without hesitation shut them up and burn them live God has not conferred upon the fore gners the grant nscribed in a copper plate of the kingdom of Hindustan hivaji strove to drive them away from the land of his birth le did not thereby commit the sin of coveting what belonged o others Do not circumscribe your vision like a frog in a vell Get out of the Penal code and enter the extremely igh atmosphere of the Bhagwat Gita

Ar Rand Killed

The 22nd of June 1897 was being celebrated as the 0th coronation day of Queen Victoria Every nook and orner of the empire was ringing with merriments There was general illumination and display of fire works in the city of Poona Two Governm nt officials Mr Rand the plague commissioner and one Lieut Ayerst were returning home from some nocturnal party They were shot at and were killed The Chopekar brothers had shot Mr Rand Damodar Chopekar was caught red handed was tried and conv cted of the double murder

How the revolutionary movement and the wider national movement interpenetrated each other would become apparent from the fact that the great Lokamanya was convicted on the trial of the Rand murder The authorities held him responsible for the abetment of the murder Besides the Kesari, some other papers were also victimised

Shyamji Krishna Varma

Two well known citizens of Poona, belonging to the Natu family were deported under Regulation XXV of 1827 in connection with the incidents in Poona Shortly after these deportations Shyamji Krishna Varma, a Kathiawari millionaire went away to London of his own accord to escape possible police atrocities For sometime he just hebernated, but when after some years he became sure that the police was no longer after him he started the India Home Rule Society in London The aim of the society was to initiate Indian students who had gone to England for studies into the nationalist cult A monthly paper called the Indian Sociologist was published as the organ of the society In order to attract students Shyamji announced 'that he proposed to establish six lectureships of Rs 1,000 each for enabling authors, journalists and qualified engineers to visit Europe, America and other parts of the world so as to equip themselves efficiently for the work of spreading among the people of India a knowledge of freedom and national unity' It should be noted here that Shyamji offered these scholar ships from his own purse He not only spent lavishly from his own pocket, but induced other Indian millionaires to spend money for political ends It was at Shyamji's instance that Mr S R Rana, an Indian resident in Paris offered three travelling scholarships of Rs 2,000/- each to be called after Rana Pratap of Chittore, Shivaji and Bahadurshah

V D Savarkar Born Leader

Shyamji became a neucleus round which all the revo lutionary elements in London gathered He was soon joined

by Veer V D Savarkar Savarkar even before he started for London had distinguished himself as a revolutionary along with his elder brother Ganesh Savarkar and they had founded the Abhinava Bharat Society

Savarkar s arrival in London helped to galvanise the revolutionary movement there The India House founded by Shyamji became a famous place frequented by all the progressive Indians The Government became alarmed because the Indian students in London were rapidly going over to the side of the nationalist cause A question was asked in the Parliament as to whether the government were aware of the seditious activities in the India House This put Shyamji on the guard He at once shifted his head quarters to Paris and from there he began to guide the budding revolutionaries The Indian Sociologist however continued to be published from London

Gradually V D Savarkar became the chief in London This was quite natural in view of the fact that he was on the spot and more active and militant than Shyamji It was under his leadership that in May 1908 the 1857 revolution day was celebrated in London with eclat Nearly one hundred Indian students i e the bulk of those studying in England attended the celebration On this occasion a leaflet entitled Oh Martyrs was distributed among the participants It seems that the persons attending the celebration were presented with numerous copies of the leaflet so that they might send them in their letters to India According to police report this leaflet was printed in French press under the patronage of Shyamji Another leaflet entitled Grave Warning was published during this period Savarkar also wrote a history of the War of Independence in Marathi He used to translate passages from it in the Sunday meeting of Indian revolutionaries in London This book could not be printed in Marathi Ultimately the revolutionaries succeeded in getting its English translation

printed in Holland Copies of the book were smuggled in to India through various ingenious devices One of the persons who helped in smuggling was the late Sir Sikandar Hayat, then a student in England He was always proud of this fact

Long Live Dhingra

The Government was not sitting on the fence Sir Curzon Wylie was appointed to look after the interests of the Indian students at London In reality he was acting as a spy on the militant Indian student fraternity of London He took note of 'suspicious cases', and tried by hook or crook to cow them down Thus he became a complete nuisance On the 1st of July 1909 Madanlal Dhingra of Sahiwal (Punjab) shot at him from close range at a gathering in the Imperial Institute in London Dhingra was a Punjabi student and had gone to London for further studies He was arrested on the spot tried and hanged In the course of a brilliant statement in the court he said *inter alia* "A dependent nation that is held down by alien bayonets must be understood to be an eternal state of war with the victors " He put forth a strong plea for a ceaseless struggle with the alien bureaucracy till independence was achieved He concluded with a desire to be born again and again and sacrifice his life until India was free

Vinayak Savarkar s elder *brother*, Ganesh Savarkar was busy organising political conspiracies in Maharashtra Some time before the murder of Sir Curzon Wylie he was hauled up under Section 121 of the I P C The authorities could not find any substantial proof of his conspiratorial activities, so he was clapped in prison for a bunch of poems entitled The laghu Avinaya Bharat mela " For a few verses he was sentenced to transportation for life In this connection it is interesting to note that the convicting judge remarked that the "writer's main object is to preach war against the present

government in the names of certain gods of the Hindus and certain warriors such as Shivaji These names are a mere pretext I have quoted the remarks of the judge to how that although these revolutionaries used religious symbols and some of these happened to be of anti muslim character in reality there was nothing anti Muslim about these people At the same time it should be noted that although not repre enting anti Musl m s ntiments those symbols of a definitely Hindu tint kept away the Muslim from the fold of the revolutionary movement Historically this was a first calamity

The Murder of Jackson

Mr Jackson the magistrate of Nasik who had committed Ganesh Savarkar for trial was shot dead on the 21st December 1909 A number of persons were ultimately hanged for this murder A conspiracy called the Nasik conspiracy was started by the police and a number of young men were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment In Gwalior also a conspiracy case was started and many young men were convicted It was found in course of the investigation of these conspiracies that there was a widespread armed conspiracy to end British rule in India

Salute To Savarkar

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was not only a genius but a very brave revolutionary It was found that V D Savarkar even prior to his journey to England had laid the foundations of these conspiracies He was brought down as a prisoner from England As a pri oner on board the ship he managed to escape from the ship and swam to the French coast He was however arrested and brought to India but his arrest by British police on the French coast gave rise to an important issue of international Law and brought the question of Indian

freedom before the world as nothing else had done Savarkar was sentenced to (50 years) transportation for life and sent to the far away Andamans, where his brother and so many other revolutionaries had already been sent

Bengal—Brain of Revolution

Now the scene shifts to Bengal It was in Bengal that British rule had its roots There a new class called the 'bhadralok' class had come into being For decades this class had been very peaceful and it was the chief pillar of the advancing British imperialism During 1857 the bhadralok class of Bengal had sided completely with the British rulers They were employed in the subbordinate services After a few decades Bengali bhadralok people began to be elbowed out Also the educated class began to realise that all higher posts were closed to them and they were of a slave race This caused widespread discontent among the educated Bengalis It was not a mere accident that Bengalis became the pioneers in the national movement of India The friends of yesterday thus turned the deadliest foes

The Partition of Bengal

The situation was already tense in Bengal In the mean time as if adding insult to injury Lord Curzon introduced a bill called the Universities Bill which was rightly interpreted by politically conscious people as designs to limit the number of Indian educated in English, and thus to retard national advance This discontent spread among the English educated classes An unheard of agitation greeted the bill Already the atmosphere was impregnated with thunder At this time Lord Curzon fired another of his rockets He declared that Bengal must be divided for administrative convenience

This enraged the middle class Bengalis, and as the middle class Bengalis happened to be the ideologues of the

people unrest soon spread among the masses as well The agitation for annulling the partition of Bengal assumed huge proportions and from the biggest to the lowest all joined to undo what seemed to them at that time to be a great national catastrophe Thousands of largely attended meetings were held protesting again t the move poets came out with new songs of a militant type the great Tagore himself became one of the leaders of the movement The Government in its turn suppre sed the meetings and public manifestations with the result that the Bengal youths drifted to secret societies

Sri Aurovindo Symbol of Revolt

S i Aurob ndo Ghose and Barindra Kumar Ghose sons of K D Gho h a medical officer in Government employment came out as leaders of the militant youths of Be gal at that time. Barindra v born in 1880 n Engl nd but had been bro ight to India as a child Aurobindo had rece ved all his education in En land There he got a first cl ss in the Cambridge Ui versity classical tripos He wanted to go to the I C S He passed all the requisite examinations for it but v as rejected in the final election because of his inability to ride Aurobindo by h s writ ngs and Barindra by his organisa tional ability becam the symbol of the new Bengal in revolt

Barindra had definite ideas about political things He was convinced that agitation alone could not liberate Ind a Barindra made an attempt to organise a secret soci ty as early as 1904 But the ground was not yet ready so he waited When as a consequence of the partition of Bengal the ground was ready he embarked on his old scheme

Barindra became the leader of a big conspiracy known as the first Alipore conspiracy All the persons participatin in it were highly educated Some of them had definite literary talents Ultimately the conspiracy was unearthed When th conspiracy w s unearthed all the accus d persons came to the decision that as everything had been found by

the C I D, all the accused persons should make a clean breast of everything in order that their countrymen should be able to know what their organisation had done. Barindra made a revealing statement.

Upendranath Banerjee, one of the leaders of the conspiracy, said in the course of his confession, "As I thought that people of India could not be made to do any work except through religion I sought the help of Sadhus. Failing Sadhus I fell upon the school boys and collected them to give the religious, moral and political education. Since then I have been merely engaged in teaching boys about the state of our country, the need of independence. I preached that the only way left to us was to fight for our independence, to start secret societies in different parts of our country. To propagate ideas, collect arms, finally rise in rebellion when the time shall be ripe."

Jugantar, the organ of the party had seven thousand subscribers in 1907. In 1908 the number of subscribers increased still more, but during this year it was suppressed according to the Newspapers Incitement to Offences Act. Sir Lawrence Jenkins commenting on the file of the Jugantar said, "They exhibit a burning hate of the British race. They breathe revolution in every line. They point out how the revolution is to be effected. No calumny and no artifice is left out which is likely to instill the people of the country with the same idea or to catch the impressionable mind of the youth." Apart from the Jugantar the revolutionaries published many pamphlets, songs etc. In every way possible the revolutionaries with their meagre means tried to contact masses and inculcate revolutionary ideas in them.

Khudiram

Khudiram was one of the members of the Alipore group. He was sent all the way to Muzaffarpore to shoot Mr

Kingsford who as the Presidency Magistrate at Calcutta made himself a nuisance to revolutionaries by inflicting he punishments on revolutionaries brought in his court for t Khudiram failed to indentify Mr King ford and he wro threw a bomb on the carriage of Mrs and Mis Kenn Both of them were killed Khudiram was caught tried hanged He was barely fifteen when he was hanged His yo ful appearance as well as the placid indifference with whic bore all the torture and braved death endeared him t countrymen and his name penetrated the masses thr thousands of songs and legends

Approver Shot in Prison

Another memb r of the conspi acy Kana l l who w that time an under trial in the Alipore ja l hot Naren Goswami the approver in the case This created a g stir in the country because of its romantic and m background Narendra Goswami was being conside public enemy number one by the p ople so his murder c as a great relief to thousands of people who consid revolutionaries to be heroes Surendra Nath Banerjee uncrowned king of Bengal is supposed to have distrib sweets in the office of the Bengali a daily edited by when he received this news More than a lac of pe attended the cremation ceremony of the martyr Kana The enormous mass wept like one man before his fun pyre and when his mortal body had been reduced to as people advanced towards the pyre with awe and revere and collected the ashes to be worn as a talisman by t children

Bengal Partition Nullified

For the time being after the Alipore conspiracy revolutionary movement subsided but once started it ne

really died away In 1911 the Government reunited the divided Bengal, but this did not end the revolutionary movement The revolutionary movement of Bengal had taken its birth in the anti partition, but it did not stop there The objective before it was no longer the unity of Bengal, but it was independence Emissaries from Bengal went to other provinces and tried to sow the seeds of revolution One such emmissary was Rash Behari Bose He was a clerk in the Dehra Dun Forest Office From there he organised branches of the party in various parts of Northern India

Bomb on Lord Hardinge

On the 23rd December, 1912 Lord Hardinge was entering Delhi in state with great pomp and show A bomb was thrown at him from some unknown quarter by Rash Behari Bose who was then in government service One of his bodyguards died instantaneously The assailant could not be traced After a long investigation thirteen persons were tried in a case which became known as the Delhi conspiracy case Master Amir Chand, Awadh Behari, Bal Mukund and Basant Kumar were sentenced to be hanged in this case and other accused persons were sentenced to various terms of impri onment Rash Behari, the chief accused could not be apprehended He safely reached and became the founder of the I N A and invited Netaji to lead it to victory

Patriotic Army Men

During the World War I, revolutionaries tried to tamper with the Indian section of the army, and they succeeded to a great extent Many Indian armies had signified their readiness to rise in rebellion in case there was a general rising The Gadr Party of America contributed greatly to the success of the movement nside the Army

Martyrs of Komagatmaru

The American Government was not friendly disposed towards the Indians It wanted to discourage them from settling in America The same was the attitude of the Canadian Government The Privy Council of Canada gave a ruling to the effect that Indians could be allowed to disembark on the soil of Canada only if the ship on which they travelled came dircetly to Canada Now there was no shipping line which directly connected India with Canada In other words this ruling was tantamount to prohibition of Indian Immigration in Canada The Indians sent Sardar Nand Singh to represent their case before the Canadian Congress but in vain Then they tried other means They chartered a ship the Komagata Maru and directly reached Vancouver on the 23rd May 1914 Even then the Canadian Government refused the passengers the permission to disembark After two months of fruitless negotiations the ship had to return along with its passengers In the meantime some revolutionaries had joined the crew and the passengers had been mainly converted to the revolutionary mode of thinking The ship reached Budgebudge near Calcutta The Government of India being forearmed wanted to arrest all the passengers and send them directly under police surveillance to the Punjab But the passengers refused and there was a gun fight between the police party and the passengers resulting in several deaths Baba Gurdit Singh the leader who had staked all his property to charter the ship and 28 other persons escaped the vigilance of the police and managed to slip to various parts of India Babaji remained in hiding for seven years and it was only in 1921 during the days of the non cooperation movement that he surrendered to the police and was sent to prison for seven years

Contact with Germany

The history of the members of the Gadar Party in

America reads like a romance It is not possible to go into detail in the present context The leaders of the Gadar Party contacted German agents and strove to forment revolution in India with German arms and money As soon as the first world war started many Indian residents in foreign countries at once saw the possibilities of linking up the revolutionary movement of India with Germany as early as 1911 Von Bernhardi in his book "Germany and the next war" had suggested the possibility of linking up the revolutionary movement in Bengal with German war efforts On the 6th March, 1914 the famous German paper "Berliner Tageblatt" had published an article entitled "the Indian danger to England" In this article it was shown that the situation in India was very fluid, and secret societies were at work It was specially mentioned in the article that in San Francisco a huge preparation for an armed rising in India was going on

Indians in Europe

In September, 1914 a young Tamil named Champak Raman Pillay who was the president of the International Pro-India Committee of Zurich wrote to the German consul in Zurich asking permission to print anti British literature in Germany His petition met with favourable results and in October of the same year Pillay shifted to Berlin, and there he began to work under the supervision of the foreign department of Germany There he founded the Indian National Party, which had close contacts with the German general staff Among the members of the party we find the name of Hardayal, Taraknath Dass, Barkatullah, Chandra Chakravarty and Heramba Lal Gupta The last named two persons had stood their trial in the San Francisco conspiracy

The First I N A

With the help of Indian revolutionaries a huge amount

of anti British literature was printed in Germany The literature was circulated throughout the world Apart from the production and distribution of revolutionary literature the Indian revolutionaries appointed Barkatulla to contact those Indian soldiers who fell into German hands Thus the nucleus for the first Indian National Army was created

Pingle Hanged

In November 1914 Pingle and Satyendra Sen arrived in India Pingle went to organise rebellion in Northern India He was arrested within the boundaries of the Meerut cantonment with high explosives and was hanged

Arm Plans Bungled

The revolutionar es al o smuggled arms in huge quantities with the help of G rman agents Jitendranath Lahiri brought a message to Indian revolutionaries from Europe that they should get in contact with the German consul in Batavia for arms Accordingly the famous revolutionary M N Roy was sent to Batavia Another revolutionary Abani Mukerj e was sent to Japan for the same purpose Narendra met Theodore Holferich who told him that a ship with its cargo of arms was on the way to Karachi At this Narendra said that the ship might be sent to Raimangal in the Sundarbans This ship contained 30 000 rifles and there were 400 cartridges for every rifle Raimangal became the centre of various arms smuggling activities We need not go into detail but there is no doubt about it that the Indo-German conspiracy assumed very huge proportions The Emden and the Manerick and some other ships took part in the conspiracy For some time the Emden remained a bogey to the British navy But for certain accidents an armed rising in Bengal and other provinces would have become a reality In the course of this conspiracy Indian revolutionaries showed normous pluck and courage They received the respect of the German general staff and were

acknowledged to be very good stuff for the military department in any country

The Mainpuri Conspiracy

All the revolutionaries in India were not working in a single party There were different parties and organisations among them One such party was that of Pandit Genda Lal Dikshit of Mainpuri Dikshitji was an ordinary school master, but getting inspiration from the writings of revolutionaries he organised a party of young men He thought that for his purpo e dacoits could also be useful, so he tried to organise dacoits al o, but in this he was not very successful, because the dacoits cared for personal gain more than anything else He however got some funds from the dacoits which were utilised for the revolutionary party Ultimately Gendalalji was arrested with his party But he managed to ecsecape from jail, fell ill and died a free man Others of his party were convicted to various terms of rigorous imprisonment They were however let out on the termination of the war in general amnesty Ramprasad Bismil an absconder in the case could not be arrested till the very last He was destined to become the leader of the military side in the Kakori case

The Benares Conspiracy

Benares had the *honour* to *become one of the* chief centress of the revolutionaries during the first world war Sachindranath Sanyal the right hand man of Rash Behari was the leader of this centre The centre succeeded in contacting the army, and providing them with revolutionary literature At the failure of their activities the chief members were arrested and tried in the Benares conspiracy case Among other members of this party was Damodar Swarup Seth of Bareily Sachindranath Sanyal was given transportation for life

Muslim Revolutionaries

It will not be out of place here to relate in short the part which the Muslims played in the revolutionary movement during this period Owing to some reason or other we shall not go into details The Muslims were not so active in this sphere s the Hindus were It is also true that middle class Muslims have been prone to look towards Turkey and other Islamic countries mo e than they looked upon Ind a During the Crimean v ar the Ind an Muslims sympathised with Turkey During the Italo Turkish war and other subsequent events in the Balkans this feeling became more manifest The Muslims of Ind a also resented that Iran had been divided into British and Russian spheres of influence without any reference to the wish of the Iranese When in the first world var Turkey jo ned tl e German side British statesmen understood that there would be d scontent among the Indian Musl ms So they came out with a proclamat on that Britain had no intention of harming Turkey The Nizam obviously under instructions from the British Government published a letter to the same effect

Pan Islamism to Nationalism

This however did not subside the unrest among Muslims Apart from other manifestations some Maulavis of Deobund ngaged in a conspiracy to subvert the British Government Obeidullah a Maulvi of Deobund took the lead He was a convert from Sikhism At first he approached the Maulvis who gave him a good hearing Maulana Mahmud Hu sain the chief Maulvi of Deobund also joined him The ideas of these Maulvis were not really nationalistic They dreamed of the revival of Muslim rule in India In order to mature the scheme Obeidullah and Mahmud Hussain went out of India. Obeidullah tried to persuade Islamic states to invade India

His scheme envisaged an invasio i of India by some Islamic state outside India and simultaneous rising

in India He, however failed to induce any Islamic state to undertake his plan He then concentrated on the rising in India A provisional government was formed in Kabul in which Raja Mahendra Pratap, a man of unique sacrifice was given the post of the president By experience Obeidullah and other Muslim conspirators had abandoned Pan Islamic ideas He had found out that other Indians were engaged in the same kind of activities as he So he thought of combining with them and working together against the British The result was the Provisional Government of Azad Hind

Azad Hind Government

Obeidullah himself had taken the post of a minister in the Government Barkatulla was to become the prime minister By the way it might be mentioned that Barkatulla was a resident of Bhopal and had gone to Tokyo as a professor of Hindustani in the University there At Tokyo he used to edit a paper called the "Islamic Fraternity" This paper was topped by the Japanese Government on the request of the British Government He was also removed from the post of professorship of the Tokyo University Since then he had been devoting his whole time to revolutionary work

Epistles to the Czar and the Khalifa

This provisional government at Kabul sent letters to the Czar and other Powers requesting them to end their alliance with British imperialism, and use their energies to bring about a revolution in India These letters were signed by Raja Mahendra Pratap, the provisional president The epistle to the Czar was sent in a golden plate Another letter which was meant for the Sultan of Turkey was written on yellow silk This was not done for ornamental purposes but it was done to avoid detection by the police A piece of silk with whatever inscription on it could escape the vigilance of the police easily

Silk Letter Conspiracy

Such letters were sent to centres in India as well These letters contained instructions for the preparatoin of the revolution as well as the report of things done in other part of the world When ultimately the whole conspiracy came to the notice of the police it became known as the Si l Letter Conspiracy case

The Rowlatt Committee

The revolutionary movement in India had assumed suc huge proportions that it had become a constant source headache to the Government of India Hence the govern ment appointed a committee presided over by justice Rov latt to investigate and report on the nature and extent the crim nal conspiracies connected w th the revolutionai movement in India and to examine and consider the difl culties that had arisen in dealing with such consp racies ar to advise as to the legislation if any necessary to enabl government to deal effectively with them

The Black Report

This Committee submitted a big report running int hundreds of pages The report suggested curtailment in th already limited civil liberties of the people The report no only dealt with the suppression of terroristic organisations but it also wanted to take away the rights of free speech and writing Whatever we in our compartmental method of thinking may confabulate but the committee viewed the actions of Lokamanya Chapekar Indo German conspirators, Bipin Paul Khudiram in the same manner All of them were equally reprehensible in the eyes of the committee

Gandhiji Leads

The Congress condemned the report and Mahatma Gandhi came out with the statement that if the bill proposed

on the basis of the Rowlatt report were passed into law he would inaugurate Satyagraha in the country. We cannot afford to dilate on the topic as to how Gandhiji became the idol of the people, because at such a juncture when India was feeling quite helpless he came out with a weapon that promised hope and salvation. There were countrywide hartals against the report. The Jallianwala tragedy was a sequel to this movement. I shall not also relate in detail how from this agitation against the Rowlatt report the non-cooperation movement grew. But let me point out here is a definite case where one can see how the revolutionary movement and the wider national movement interpenetrated and commingled. Pandit Moti Lal Nehru described Rowlatt Act in three words — *No appeal, no Vakil,* (Advocate) *no Dalil* (argument), such was the iron hand of the foreign ruler.

Hindustan Republican Association

It is a fact of history that, during the whole course of the non-cooperation movement, which was prompted as an experiment in non-violence the revolutionary movement in India was held in abeyance. But as soon as the movement was withdrawn by Mahatma Gandhi in 1922 after police murders at Chauri Chaura the revolutionaries came out with their modus operandi after their long hibernation. The Anushilan and Sachindranath Sanyal started organising revolutionary groups in Northern India. Ultimately the Anushilan withdrew from Northern India and the whole of Northern India came under one revolutionary organisation viz., the Hindustan Republican Association. The ultimate object of the party was to end exploitation of man by man throughout the world but its immediate object was to found a federated republic of the united states of India by an armed and organised revolution.

The Ideal and Object

Many leaflets were published in pursuance of this cons

piracy in which the masses were asked to adopt the revolu tionary path as the British could only be brought to the senses by revolution In one of these leaflets it was said tha the Soviet Russia among modern states was the ideal of th revolutionaries in India It also said that the party was n one of terrorists but wh n necessary it could enter into vigorous compaign to punish those who harmed the caus of the country

Kakori Train Hold up

For funds the party relied on subscriptions but as sub criptions were not sufficient for running the party machin village daco ties were committed to fill the coffers of tl party In August 1925 a t a n w s held up at Kakori ne Lucknow and the safe containing the earnings of the railwa was broken open and looted The spectacular manner i which the hold up was executed the political slogans whic were advanced during the commission of the hold up th high calibre of the person who were subsequently arreste made it one of the most important episodes of the revolutior ary history of India

Four Hanged Others Convicted

Pandit Ramprasad Bismil a poet of no mean merit Rajendra Nath Lahiri a student of the M A in Benare Hindu University Roshan Singh Ashfaqe Ullah a Pathar student of Shahjanpore were hanged in the Kakori consp racy case Sachindra Nath Sanyal and Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee who were already in Bengal jail when the Kakori train hold up occurred were brought all the way to Lucknow to stand this trial in the case They were given transporta tion for life Other members of the conspiracy were award ed various terms of imprisonment The writer of this article was awarded 14 years R I in the said conspiracy and was released after being in jail continually for 12 years by the *first Congress Ministry of the U P*

Activities in Bengal

Bengal did not remain behind On the 3rd August, 1923 some revolutionaries looted the Sankaritola Post Office in Calcutta On the 9th December, 1923 the anniversary of the Martyr Jatin Mukerjee was celebrated with eclat in Calcutta In December, 1923 revolutionaries in Chittagong committed a dacoity and decamped with Rs 18 000

Gopi Mohan Saha

In 1924, Gopi Mohan Saha shot and killed one Mr Dean English merchant In reality he wanted to shoot Sir Charles Tegart the notorious police official who had sent many a revolutionary to the gallows Gopi Mohan submitted a very brilliant statement in court, in which after expressing regret for having shot an innocent Englishman by mistake, he said that the way of revolution was the only way of dealing with the British rulers He said that non violence was futile vis a vis the Englishman Gopi Mohan Saha was a youngster of sixteen The fact that he went to the gallows very bravely put additional weight to his statement Indeed a resolution was passed extolling his bravery in the next provincial conference of Bengal held at Serajgunj Gandhiji who had been released from jail by this time on medical grounds took exception to this resolution There was a long and protracted controversy on this resolution between Gandhiji and C R Das who had taken up the cudgels on behalf of the revolutionaries

Kanpur Bolshevik Conspiracy

Along with conspiracies of a more or less terroristic and blanquistic nature a new kind of conspiracy had appeared on the scene In 1917 the people of Russia had been emancipated from the Czarist shackles Thus far socialism was only an idea, more or less of an Utopia,

but the realization of socialism in Russia made it into a living historical force Naturally the downtrodden people of the East began to look towards new Russia for insp ration and emancipation Narendra Bhattacharya (late M N Roy) once a terrorist took a leading part in linking up India and Russia He had been in exile long time It was during his exile that the Russian revolution occurred He went to Russia and from there began to contact Indians in India In 1920 some Indian Muslims who had left India in Hijrat movement as protest met him and came under the Russian influence Among Russia returned Mahajirs Shaukat Osmani and some other Muslims played a great part in bringing Russian ideas of revolutionary organisation and method in India They returned to India and contacted persons in India They tried to set up organisation among the labourer and the petty bourgeoisie This incurred the wrath of the government and after sometime the Kanpur conspiracy case was started S A Dange Shaukat Osmani Muzaffar Ahmad and Nalini were sentenced to four years R I As M N Roy was outside India he could not be arrested This conspiracy focussed the attention of the country to a new method and goal Although the conspiracy was found out the proceedings of the case made a deep impression on the youth of India

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Babbar Akali Heroes

In the Punjab the Babbar Akali agitation deserves special mention All the movements enumerated in this essay were more or less confined to the educated middle class But the Babbar Akali agitation was a mass movement of the Sikhs in the Punjab Kishan Singh Gargaj one of the leaders of this movement was a resident of Jullundur He was a havildar in the cavalry but he

other soldiers he did not confine himself to his military duties He used to read the daily papers, and had been moved by the Jallianwala massacre and subsequent events The incident of Nankana on the 20th February 1921 in which innocent Sikhs were butchered proved the last straw for him He resigned his havildarship and like an inspired person went from village to village preaching hymns of hatred against white rulers In the same manner Karam Singh and Udai Singh were organising the poor peasantry in the district of Hoshiarpur Kishan Singh's party was originally called Chakravarty party i e a party of the conquerors of the world but when it was amalgamated with other parties of the same nature, the resultant organisation was named the Babbar Akali A paper named 'Babbar Akali began to appear under the editorship of Karam Singh Gradually the party began to collect stocks of guns, revolvers, bombs etc The party also worked to spread disaffection in the army The leaders of the party came to the conclusion that it was due to traitors that the previous attempts of revolution had failed therefore they decided to end the lives of traitors real and potential One of the main methods of the party was that suddenly a speaker would appear in a village assemble the villagers, preach revolution and disappear before the police could catch him

On the 14th of February, 1923 the Diwan of Haiyatpur was killed On the 27th March Hazara Singh of Baibalpur was killed Several other persons were also killed or maimed as the merit of the case required

Dhanna Singh and Banta Singh killed Bishan Singh as he was suspected of having given information to the police on several occasions They also killed Buta a village headman for being an informer They killed several other such suspicious characters Naturally the

police was on the lookout for these men One day Karam Singh Udai Singh Kishan Singh and some others of the party were passing near the village Bom ly The police got information and surrounded them Shots were exchanged Udai Singh and Mahendra Singh died on the spot Karam Singh entered a pool and half immersed in water he continued to fire on the police party But he was shot Bisan Singh was also killed This event occurred on the Ist December 1923 but these shootings encouraged rather than discouraged the movement

Dhanna Singh could not be arrested for a long time On the 25th October 1923 Dhanna Singh was induced by Jwala Singh an informer of the police to go to a certain place where he as surrounded by the police When Dhanna Singh realised that he had been betrayed he wanted to whip out his revolver but before doing so he was overpowered Dhanna Singh had a l e bomb concealed near his belt After arrest he struck the bomb in such a manner that it exploded with the result that he was killed but along with him five police men including an Englishman named Horton were killed

Ultimately the Babbar Akali conspiracy was suppressed 88 persons were hauled in a case among which 6 persons namely Dharam Singh Santa Singh Dalip Singh Kishan Singh Gargajj Nand Singh and Karam Singh were hanged other accused persons getting other terms of imprisonment

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Deoghar Conspiracy

In Bihar there was a conspiracy called the Deoghar conspiracy This was an offshoot of the Kakori conspiracy Birendra and Surendra Bhattacharya of Benares were the chief organisers of the conspiracy In its nature and scope

it was similar to its parent conspiracy Ultimately some persons were arrested and awarded various terms of imprisonment, the highest punishment of 10 years R I being given to Sailendra Chakravarti

The four hangings of the Kakori conspiracy had created a stir among young men There were several attempts to avenge their deaths Two such attempts deserve special mention Manindranath Banerjee of Benares fired at Mr Banerjee a D S P who was partly responsible for the success of the Kakori case Manindra was given 10 years' R I He died in the Central Jail of Fatehgarh as a result of hunger strike which he had undertaken for the amelioration of C class political prisoners The other attempt was made by Ramesh Gupta of Kanpur He tried to shoot Virbhadra (at Orai) who had been playing double game with the revolutionaries The immediate cause of Ramesh's wrath was that Virbhadra had betrayed Chandra Sekhar Azad

Simon Escapes Twice *

The appointment of a Royal Commission presided over by Sir Simon to enquire into and report on the future reforms was greeted with anger and indignation by the people of India The revolutionaries reacted in their own way Manmohan Gupta, Markandaya and Harendra all of Benares conspired between themselves to blow up the train of Sir John Simon As the police were more vigilant in the U P they decided to undertake the work in an out of the way place in the province of Bombay Accordingly the conspirators started from Benares with one dynamite, several bombs and pistols for their objective, but the bombs exploded in the train near Manmad The explosion was so loud that it was heard from a distance of 40 miles The roof of the railway carriage in which the revolutionaries were travelling was blown off, and

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* In the Assembly, Bhagat Singh wanted to kill Simon but his pistol was jammed

the train went off the rails Markandaya died on the spot Harendra became unconscious Some other passenger also died When Harendra gained consciousness in hospital he made a clean breast of everything Ultimatel Harendra who retracted his confession and Manmoha were sentenced to 7 years R I each

Lalaji s Death Avenged

The Simon Commission visited Lahore on the 20t October 1928 and there was altogether a different kin of repercussion There Lala Lajpat Rai while leading th boycott demonstration against the commission receive lathi blows from the police These blows ultimatel resulted in his death He was too old to stand the lath blows and he succumbed to his injuries on the 17tl November His death was taken as a national calamity and the whole of India felt enraged before this uncalle for insult of the nation At this juncture the Hindusthar Socialist Republican Association the only revolutionary party of Northern India decided to avenge the national insult By the way it might be told that this party wa a continuation of the party to which the Kakori group belonged Indeed Chandra Sekhar Azad the chief military leader of this party was one of the absconders in the Kakori conspiracy case and Bhagat Singh wa also one of the members of the Kakori group itself

Bhagat Singh and Azad decided to kill the official responsible for the assault of Lala Lajpat Rai Accordingly they both along with Shiva Ram Rajguru and Jaygopal were lying in wait for Mr Saunders near his office on the 15th December 1928 Mr Saunders came out of his office at 4 p m accompanied by his orderly Chanan Sin h As soon as the motor cycle of Mr Saunders was in full speed the revolutionaries spotted him out and shot a

The revolutionaries had to shoot him although they had no intention of killing him The story of how Bhagat Singh escaped in European dress and how Azad escaped as the leader of a bogus Pilgrim party formed in D A V College hostel is very inspiring

Ultimately this incident became the nucleus of a conspiracy, and the Lahore conspiracy was the result The persons accused in this case made a mark on the contemporary history of India by their courage, intellect and tact Bhagat Singh was arrested when he along with Batukeshwar Dutt threw a bomb in the Central Assembly on the 8th April, 1929

Assembly Bomb Case

At that time the Public Safety Bill had been under discussion in the Assembly The Trades Disputes Bill had been passed by a majority, and President Patel was on the point of giving his ruling on the Public Safety Bill The atmosphere was tense All the eyes were riveted on the face of the President when the explosion occurred Sir George Schuster the finance member and Sir Bomanji Dalal received light injuries The throwers of the bomb could easily take advantage of the resultant confusion but they stood there in the visitors gallery shouting the slogan of Inquilab Zindabad i e, Long Live Revolution Bhagat Singh and B K Dutt were the originators of this slogan which subsequently became the battle cry of all militant elements in the country irrespective of party and creed

Dictatorship of The Proletariat

They were arrested, and sent up for trial In a very long statement, which since then has become a historic document, they said that the immediate aim of the revolutionary party was to bring about the dictatorship

of the proletariat and the peasantry in India This statement was hailed as a great contribution to political thought Their ideas received particular attention becaus their words did not emanate from the chair of a professor but they came forth from the mouths of the revolutionaries who were ready to lay down their lives for the fruition of their ideas

Heroic Fight in Prison

Bhagat Singh and Dutt were awarded transportation for life in the assembly bomb case They did not however sit quietly in jail Inside the prison also they gave fight to imperialism The Kakori prisoners had fou ht for special treatment to political prisoners They had won in the fight but the fruits of their ctory had lasted as long as they were under trials but as soon as they were convicted they were robbed of the special treatment so far allowed to them They put up a stiff fight through hunger strike but the leaders mediated and their fight was left half way Bhagat Singh and his colleagues took up the fight from where the Kakori convicts had left it

Jatin Das s Martyrdom

It was a historic hunger strike The Government was adamant Jatin Das one of the Lahore conspirators died after 64 days of hunger strike His death was mourned by the whole nation His d ad body was taken from Lahore to Calcutta in a special carriage At every station thousands of people came to pay the martyr their last homage When his dead body reached Calcutta there was a sea of human heads to show its respects Six lacs of people accompanied him to the cremation ground

Partial Victory Attained

Bhagat Singh and his colleagues carried the fi ht for the rights of the political prisoners to its logical conse-

quences. The writer of the article was at that time a long term convict in the Bareilly Central Jail. He was one of the hundreds of political prisoners throughout India who simultaneously struck hunger with the Lahore comrades. As a consequence of these hunger strikes and the death of Jatin Das the government had to come down from its olympic heights, and create the three fold classification of prisoners—into A, B and C classes. Of course, this was not the object for which the political prisoners had been fighting, but on the whole it was an advancement and so the strike was called off.

Three Death Sentences

The Lahore conspiracy dragged on for a long time, ultimately it ended in the sentences of death passed on Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdeo. Others were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. Once again Chandra Shekhar Azad could not be punished although he was the chief accused.

Attempt to Blow off Lord Irwin

The Lahore conspiracy was followed by many other conspiracies in the Punjab and Delhi. We need not go in to details. On the 23rd December, 1929 the revolutionaries tried to blow off the train on which Lord Irwin was travelling. This had been done with great ingenuity, but it failed to kill the Viceroy who escaped death by a hair's breadth. It might be noted that it was on the 23rd December that a bomb was thrown on Lord Hardinge seventeen years ago. After a long investigation a conspiracy case was started at Delhi and some revolutionaries were convicted.

In 1930 the revolutionaries made an attempt to murder Khan Bahadur Abdul Aziz a police Official who had become notorious in some revolutionary cases. The Gadodia stores were looted on 6th June, 1930. Other such

incidents of a sporadic nature occurred but it was obv that this kind of revolution ry movement was now on wane Indian youths of a militant type were gradu realizing that whatever the utility of terrorism at a when the mass movement was non existent at the pre jun ture *mass o ganisations were the only m thod* of br ing about revolution

Azad s Heroic Death

The death of Chandra Shekhar Azad while fightin v a strong police party single handed as if heralded the of n epoch which had been so glorious and in its train produced a rich harvest of martyrs and heroes On 27th Februa y 1931 he was s rrounded by a pol ce part Alf ed Park at Allahabad He fought t ll the very last died riddled with bullet H s l fe *story was a very th* ing one which covered the whole post non coopera revolutionary epoch *He was a prince among revolu t* aries

The Chittagong Armoury Ra d

Now we shall turn our eyes to Bengal where important things were happening and where the revoultu ary movement was still n full sw ing In Bengal the terro movement h d penetrated the masses more deeply On *12th March 1 30 Gandhiji began his famous Dandi Ma* He was not arrested for a long time When he chan his *modus operandi* and gave notice of taking by storm all t salt depot then only he was arrested His successor Abb Tayabji was arrested on the 12th April The country w in an electrifi d condition At this most psycholo ic moment seventy young men of Chittagong divided ther selves into se eral parts and simultaneously raided the poli line tel phone exchange and the I I Head quarter Within 45 minutes they were masters of the city the ra

having begun at 9 45 p m and having ended at 10 30 p m Chittagong was cut off from Dacca and Calcutta Railway lines, telephone connections and telegraph wires were cut In the I I Head quarters the revolutionaries took posses ion of all the fire arms as also a Lewis gun Some Englishmen, and Indian sentries were killed The District Magistrate came to fight the revolutionaries but he was repelled

The Fight at Jalalabad

As it was only an incident confined to Chittagong, very soon forces from all sides came and the revolutionaries had to escape to the hills of Jalalabad The military pursued them there At first the military was repelled, but in the face of the well equipped armies of British imperialism the revolutionaries suffered heavy losses Nineteen youths were killed on the spot All these young excepting one, were below twenty Madhusudan Dutta and Naresh Rai killed on that day were 17, where as Ardhendu Dastidar and Prabash Nath Ball were 16 After this fight which has since become famous as the Jalalabad fight, the remaining revolutionaries spread away in all directions

Chittagong Raiders Arrested

A group of these people was travelling by Railway on the 22nd April The Police wanted to arrest them Shots were exchanged and one Sub-Inspector and two constables died On the 24th April Bilash Dastidar of this group finding himself surrounded by the Police committed suicide rather than become a prisoner Some important persons of this group were in hiding in French Chandan nagar The British police contrary to all notions of international law traced them to their hiding place on the French territory surrounded them and after a stiff gun fight arrested three persons There was a fourth revolutionary there, who was shot dead Ganesh Ghose one of the chief leaders of the Chittagong raid was arrested at Chandan nagar

Raiders Convicted

The Chittagong armoury raid prisoners were tried by a special tribunal and on the first March 1932 the following were sentenced to transportation for life (1) Anant Singh (2) Loknath Bal (3) Lal Mohan Sen (4) Phanindra Nandi (5) Sahairam Das (6) Subodh Ray (7) Ganesh Ghose (8) Sukhendu Dastidar (9) Anand Gupta (10) Subodh Chaudary (11) Fakir Sen and (12) Ranadhir Das Gupta. 16 persons were released for want of sufficient proof but they were immediately arrested under the Bengal Ordinance The Govt could not suffer such dangerous persons to be out of prison

The Chittagong revoultionaries had chosen the particular moment with a view to give the masses a revolutionary lead But the country was not yet ready to follow in their foot steps

Laxmikanta Shukla and His Wife

On the 8th August 1930 Laxmikanta Sukla a young man from Kanpur entered the bunglow of Mr Flowers Commissioner of the Jhansi division Mr Flowers had made himself notorious by maltreating satyagrahi lady prisoners Sukla had gone there to wreck vengeance was arrested redhanded with a pistol and a live bomb Sukla was known to Chandra Shekhar Azad but he had planned this particular action according to his own free will The insult meted out to lady satvagrahis had infuriated him. He had followed the lead of none but his conscience Laxmikanta Sukla was given transportation for life and sent to the Andamans In the Andamans after a certain time he was allowed to be a free prisoner i e for all practical purposes he became free with certain restrictions inside the island His wife Shrimati Basumati Sukla joined him in his dreary life in the Andamans Vishnu Sharan

Dublis a Kakori prisoner (later an M L A of U P) mostly lived with this couple as their guardian It was after the first Congress ministry in the U P had taken power that Mr Sukla was released and repatriated Mrs Sukla reminds of Sita, who went of her own accord with Rama to the forests in exile Long live such heroines

The Maulnia Dacoity

Bihar did not prove a good field for revolutionary activities But in between, some revolutionary waves reached Bihar Jogendra Sukla was a member of the Benares Gandhi Ashram There he came into contact with Chandra Shekhar Azad and certain other revolutionaries, and he was admitted in the party After the arrest of the Kakori group, he worked secretly in Bihar He however all the time was in touch with Chandra Shekhar Azad When money was required for the defence of the Lahore case, a dacoity was committed in the village of Maulnia in the district of Champaran The police after long investigation arrested some persons Out of these Phanindra Ghose of Beltia turned approver and was later shot dead Jogendra Sukla could not be arrested for a long time He was finally arrested with three pistols, tried and sentenced to 22 years R I Other unimportant incidents occurred in Bihar

Punjab Governor Shot At

On the 23rd December, 1930, a young man named Harikishan shot and wounded the Governor of the Punjab when he was returning after delivering the convocation address Harikishan was a resident of Mardan and had come in touch with the Punjab revolutionaries He was arrested, tried and hanged He faced the gallows like a brave Pathan

Bengal s Bl od Bath

The history of the revolutionary movement of Ben al o the perio l s so rich in i icidents that we can simply re count here only som important events On the 14th Jun 1930 a bomb factory was detected at Machuabazar I re ulted in a ne v c se and Dr Narayan Banerjee the leade of the group was a varded 10 ye rs R I On the 25t August 1930 again an attempt was made on the life of S Tegart But ag n he escaped Dinesh Majumdar wa transpo ted for life but h s collaborator Anuj Gupta wa killed on the spot On the 29th August 1930 the Inspect General of Pol e Mr Lowman was shot dead by a youn man named B noy Krishna Bose Mr Hudson who w accompanying the I G wa also hot at but he recovere although he had received t o bullet wou ds On the 30 Augu t a bomb vas thrown on the house of Pabitra Bo Inspector of Police at Mymen Si gh Sol harani Dutta wa arrested in this connection Inspector Tarini Mukarj e w shot and killed while travelling on train Later on Ra Krishna Bis as was hanged and Kalipada Chakrava ty w given transportation for life for having shot Mukarjee

Ths revolutionaries enter d the Writers Building i which the Bengal Secretariat was situated It was on th 8th December 1930 They forcibly ent red the office of Mr Simpson the I G of Prisons and fired at him Mr Simpson received 9 bullets in all and died on the spot After killin Mr Simp on the youths went to kill Mr Nelson the Judicia Secretary but failed to kill him In the meantime the polic had surrounded the writ rs Building All the three men attempted to commit sui ide but only Sudhir Gupta suc ceeded The other two were taken to hospital One of th two Binoy Kri hna Bose died on the 13th December Be fore dying he made it clear that it was he who had shot Mr Lowman Dinesh Gupta the third youth in this case was hanged

The Youngest Hero

After the Chittagong raid a reign of terror prevailed in Chittagong Hindu youths of the Bhadralok class were ordered not to be seen outside their houses after sunset Punitive police was also kept to harass the people The villages of the district were not exempted from police atrocities Khan Bahadur Asanullah, the police chief was responsible for perpetrating atrocities On the 30th August, 1930 a youngster named Haripada Bhattacharya, who was barely 14 shot and killed him when he was returning after seeing a football match Untold atrocities were committed on Haripada, and he was almost reduced to a cripple He was given transportation for life He was spared the rope because of his age — (*Manmath Nath Gupta of Kakori Fame*)

x x x x

Ram Chandra - Revolutionary Genius

Pandit Ram Chandra of Peshawar was a born revolutionary who fought the battle of India s freedom in America before and during the first world war With his head quarters at Sanfrancisco he maintained a very successful propaganda campaign for India s freedom in the hospitable columns of the California press He was a prominent member of the glorious Ghaddar party founded by the late Lala Har Dyal—father of revolutionaries Pandit Ram Chandra was in the bad books of Frontier Police and he managed to disappear from Peshawar to Japan and later to America By the convincing power of his pen and his sacrifice he rose to be the editor of the Ghaddar and secretary of the party He was arrested during the War in Indo-German conspiracy case along with several Indian compatriots The British agents were able to create communal troubles between Hindu and Sikh members of the Ghaddar party after Lala Har Dyal s departure for Europe During the trial a misguided sikh comrade shot and killed the great revolutionary Pandit The assailant was also killed on the spot by American guards The murder caused a gloom in the entire Indian community

only demanded I am ready with all my soul to do my duty mind you do yours !

She donned her usual military uniform rode a nobl steed took out her gem bestudded sword from the sheath and ordered the army under her to march on She mad ready all the posts near Kotaki Serai which had been give to her care and when the English army was in sight every where trumpets and pipes drums and *na aras* rent the ai If only she had an army equal in courage and darin t herself ! Even the insubordinate and hesitating felt hero under her influence and with them and her select band (*hor emen* she charged hard the English *army* ! Her tw female friends Mandar and Kashi also fought bravely b her side May the sweet memory of these two patriot girls—beautiful in appearance with male attire put o taking pleasure in fi ht—live in history along with that (their mistress as long as history lives ! A general like Smi was charging the Ranee s army but to-day the Ranee *bravery and daring were a sight to see Like lightning sh* moved about all day The English attacked the ol phalanx a number of times On every occasion she main tained her hold firm Her army occasionally felt enthusiasti and attacked the British and cut down many of them A last Smith was forced to retire he gave up the attempt (breaking the mass and began to turn to another side leavin the nest of the cobra alone !

Thus closed the day and thus rose the *18th of the* month ! This day the English had resolved to make des perate charges From all directions they advanced on the fort and tried their utmost General Smith forced to retire the day before was very determined to-day and aided by *re inforcements* he charged the same Jhansi side he had gone for the day before Sir Hugh Rose thought that his presence was also absolutely necessary and so he was per sonally present with the force attacking the Jhansi side

The Ranee too was ready for him with all her forces "She was ready with all her soul to do her duty' That day, she wore a *Chanderi* turban embroidered all over a *tarani* cloak, and *pyjamas* A pearl necklace was round her neck Her famous steed being tired that day a new, fresh looking horse was made ready for her, fully caparisoned While her two beautiful maids were taking sherbet, news came that the English were advancing Lakhshmi immediately darted forward from her tent The arrow flies not so rapidly, the lightning flashes not forth with such force from the clouds, a lioness leaves not her lair so quickly to fall upon the approaching elephant! She rode her horse, lifted her sword, and charged the enemy with her army An English writer says, "Immediately, the beautiful Ranee went over the field and made a firm stand against the army of Sir Hugh Rose She led her troops to repeated and fierce attacks and, though her ranks were pierced through and were gradually becoming thinner and thinner, the Ranee was seen in the foremost rank, rallying her shattered troops and performing prodigies of valour But all was of no avail The camel corps, pushed up by Sir Hugh Rose in person broke her last line Still the dauntless and heroic Ranee held her own"

Bharat's "Best and Bravest"

That Rani Lakhshmi Bai of Jhansi was the best and bravest daughter of Mother India is evident from the most heroic manner of her facing defeat and sacrificing her life in the cause of restoring Liberty of India This is how Veer Savarkar has described her last moments when the enemy had entered Jhansi

But while her side was fighting with such unexampled bravery, she saw the English army advancing on her rear —for they had broken through the ranks of Revolutionaries who were holding the posts behind her!

The artillery dumb the main army routed the victori English army closing on her from all sides with only fift or twenty horsemen with her Ranee Lakhshmi accompar by her maids put her horse to a gallop in order to br through the enemy and to jo n her comrades on the ot side The Feringhi horsemen of the Hussars who knew so far where she was fired shot after shot on her and purs her like hounds But the Queen v ith unexampled cour cleared her vay with her sword and marched on Sudd was heard a cry I am dead B i Sahib I am dead ! A v hose is this cry ? Lakhshmi turned round and found it as her mai l Mandar whom a white soldier had shot killed ! Angered she attacked the Feringhi and her l felled him on the spot She had avenged the death of M ndar ! She then marched on She came to a small Nov one jump and Jhansi would have been out o Feringhi s clutches But her horse would not take jump ! If only she had had her old horse ! As if the l ne of a magician was round him the horse moved in cir round and round but would not cross Before you could one the English horsemen closed on her ! Still n v ord of su render or fear ! One sword against their sev s ords —yet she closed on them She crossed sword v sword with them all but one of them hit her on the h from behind With that blow the right part of her he and even her right eye came out—just then another b hit her c n the chest Oh Lakhshmi Lakshmi ! the drop of thy sacred blood is dripping and therefore n Mother take this last sacrifice for thee ! Even at the p of death she killed the British foe who had attacked h and now the young Queen was breathing her last breat A faithful servant Ramchandra Rao Deshmukh was re He took her to a cottage n ar by Ganga Das Bawa g her cold water to drink to quench her thirst and a bed to down upon Bathed in blood this goddess of war reclin on the bed and then her soul quietly fleeted from her bo

to heaven! As soon as she was dead, Ramchandra Rao in accordance with her dying instructions prepared a pile of grass unseen by the enemy, he put her on that pyre and, before the touch of slavery could defile even her dead body, she was cremated

"Oh the pyre, it not on the throne! But Lakhshmi is ill with her sweetheart Liberty! She has forced open the ites of death by falling in battle and has now entered the ther world Pursuit can no longer harm her Wicked ursuit must pass through those roaring flames before it can lo so

"Thus fought Lakhshmi She had achieved her purpose ulfilled her ambition, carried out her resolve! One uch ife vindicates the whole existence of a nation! She was he concentrated essence of all virtues A mere woman, iardly twenty three yet, beautiful as rose, charming in her nanners, pure of conduct, she had a power of organisation of her subjects, exhibited by very few, even among men The flame of patriotism was always burning in her heart, and she was proud of her country's honour and pre-eminent in war! It is very rarely that a nation is so fortunate as to be able to claim such an angelic person, as a daughter and a queen' Only a revolutionary hero like Veer Savarkar could paint this picture of the last moments of Rani Lakhshmi Bai ending in a heroic sacrifice

Chand Bibi

Chand Bibi played a historic role in the India of Moghul days By her valiant fight against Akbar's forces she considerably weakened the power of the Moghul in South India and thus helped the coming success of the Marathas and the Sikhs

What was she like, this Queen who matched her diminutive army against the "Shadow of God (Akbar)?

As a girl she was undoubtedly a real fairy tale princess who fits well into the legendary pomp of the Deccan courts A painting which I have seen shows her cantering a white horse across the yellow fields She is out hawking her black hair hanging down to her shoulders a golden scarf blowing in the breeze Red pyjamas a flowing skirt of gold spotted muslin and heavily embroidered golden slippers are her riding kit A red conical pagri with black plume and gold and pearl ornament gives her figure quite a mannish look On her red gauntlet is a grey hawk It is an unexpected picture from an age when the daughters of Deccan sultans are very much in purda when their only use is as pawns in the game of dynastic marriages She is to become such pawn but only for a time [1]

Chand Bibi was the wife of Ali Adil Shah Sultan Bijapur She was lucky to be tutoured in diplomacy f twenty years Her husband was killed by a servant b his nephew nine years old Ibrahim became the new Sult with Aunt Chand Bibi as the Regent She was the vict of many palace intrigues and was compelled to murder h chief minister Kamal Khan Kishwar Khan his execution confined Chand Bibi in Satara but the Abyssinians servant released her and she got Kishore Khan killed in Golkonda She took over both Ahmadnagar and Bijapur and rul very ably In one battle she defeated Akbar s son Prin Murad who stormed Ahmadnagar The fort was in grav danger She strapped on a soldier s armour snatched up sword and rushed into th breach The enemy rush was stopped

Money Bags for Cannons

When her artillery was short of ammunition she sent fo bags of money She used all her copper silver and gold Finally even her jewels were rammed into the cannon mouth Her tough fight forced Prince Murad to make peace

Later the Moghul armies invaded again but there was no Chand Bibi to slaughter them with flying piece, she had died an immortal's death

Heroines of Rajasthan *

Rajput history is full of heroism and sacrifices of brave women But the greatest stories of all are those connected with the three sacks of Chitore, those terrible days which make the oath "by the sin of the sack of Chitore" unalterable to a Rajput

The first of these was brought about by the fame of Princess Padmani, whose name still survives in common parlance as the synonym for fair and virtuous womanhood

Her renown as the greatest beauty of her day had attracted Allah u din, and he forced his way to the bare rock of Chitore demanding to see her face, even if it were only her face reflected in a mirror

He saw it, honourably entertained by Prince Bhim Singh But the sight inflamed his desire still more, and escorted as honourably back to his camp he seized the Prince as a ransom for the Queen

The Chiefs of Chitore, aghast at the loss of their King, decided that Padmani must do her duty So seven hundred litters containing the Queen and her attendants set out mournfully to the invader's camp The husband saw his wife for one brief farewell, and then — then by Padmani's wit, from out of those seven hundred litters leapt seven hundred armed men, while each of the bearers, throwing off his slight disguise, showed armed to the teeth With such a bodyguard Bhim Singh and Padmani had time to mount fleet horses and escape

* From India by Mempis

But at a bitter cost Surrounded by the Mohammedan army the flower of Chitore died hard—but died

There is scarc ly anything finer in the annals of India than the story of the Rajput wife and widow who standing beside the flaming pyre cried to the boy who had borne himself in battle beside her dead lord

Tell me ere I go hence how my lord bore himself?

Reap r of the harvest of battle! On the bed o honour he has spread a carpet of the slain a barbarian prince his pillow he sleeps ringed about by his enemies!

Tell me yet or ce aga n O boy! how my love bore himself?

O mother! how c n the vorld tell of his deeds' *There were none left to f ar or to p aise him*

Years passed and Allah u din who had never forgotten the defe t returned The maiden city was held to be impregnable but the gold which he paid for every basketful of earth soon raised a commanding poi t whence he could pour his mis iles into the city

So the weary hot days sped on slowly until one n King Bhim Singh wok in fear In a lurid l ght the tutelar goddess of Chitore stood before h m sayin

If my altar and your throne is to be kept let t e who wear the diadem die for Chitore

Now Bhim Singh and Padmani had twelve sons

So one by one in obedience to the goddess s orders the young Princes were set on the throne For three days they were King ard then they went forth to meet the foe a to meet death

Only Ajay Singh remained the darling of his father's heart

Death with Honour

Then Bhim Singh called the chief together "This shall not be', he said "The child shall go free to recover what is lost, I will die for Chitore'

"Yes! we will die for Chitore" echoed the chieftains solemnly "In saffron robes and bridal coronets we will die for Chitore'

Then throughout the whole city stern resolve took shape in bridal garments and a funeral pyre, vast, mysterious, set in the vaults and caverns which stretch far away into the earth

Thither in solemn procession came the Rajput women singing, in their holiday garments, covered with their jewels

Then, when the gate had closed upon the last woman—on Padmani—the men s turn had come! Surrounding Prince Ajay Singh with a picked band of desperate warriors sworn to see the lad safe they flung open the gates and bridal coroneted, saffron robed, sought the embrace of death

When the conqueror led his victorious troops into Chitore all was still Only a wisp or two of thin smoke escaping from the vaults below hung earthwards or drifted skywards

None have entered the vaults since, save one, led thither by God, and to day the very entrance to them is forgotten, though the "sin of the sack of Chitore" still echoes from Rajput mouth to Rajput mouth

Rani Karunavati

The second sack of Chitore was in the time of Humayun,

se ond of the three Great Moghuls and once a ain a woman tried to save the city There an ancient custom in India not as some have asserted by any means confined to the Rajputs by which a oman may choose what is called a bracelet brother f r her defence by sending to any man—emperor or slave—a silken bracelet called a *Ram Rakhi* It is made in rem mbrance of the bracelet which Ram s mother Kaushalya fas ned on her son s wrist ere he started on his exile and is a mere cord of silk bounden with tinsel fastened with a loop and button and hung with seven tiny little tass silk tassels red orange yellow green blue indi o t—the colo rs of the spectrum

It is opt onal to receive it but once bound about the wr t and the small breast bodice which custom has chosen as the fitt n return sent to the g er the twain are brother and si ter n l solubly and from th t moment he is bound t her rvice He is her dear an l reverend brothe she and virtuous sister

Sacrificed Lives

w Karunavat mother to the baby K ng saving her n her husband s funeral f re for the child s sake sent a b acelet to the Emperor Humayun Tell him s d to her messengers be is bracelet bound bro her th Rani Karunavati of and that she is hard p ssed by B had r Shah

H mayun s every instinc with the chiva ou ncident Veritable kn of I ft the conq t of Pengal vas engaged l u ed no came too nd the garr on t die as once Thirteen t w pyre b Rani hers King beyo Then l appened

maining handful of the garrison, clad in bridal robes and coronated with the bridal crown, rushed, dealing death, upon death

Thirty two thousand men perished during this second siege

Brave Panna

The fate of little Udai Singh, the baby King, deserves some few words

Given an asylum by his half brother Bikramajit, he lived in the palace with his foster mother Panna One night, when he had fallen asleep, screams rose from the women's appartments, and then the death wait Accustomed to the life of palaces, Panna's quick brain leapt to the truth Conspirators had slain Bikramajit, and the next victim would surely be Udai Singh

To catch the child up, thrust some sugared opium into his mouth, hide him still sleeping in a fruit basket, and give that into the hands of a faithful servant, saying, ' Go ! — to the river bed outside the city — wait for me ', was but an instant's quick work

The next was not so easy, — to throw a rich robe over her own sleeping child and wait, wait breathlessly

It came all too soon that question, ' The Prince ? Where is the Prince ? "

With a supreme effort she pointed to the sleeping child

When all was over, when she had wept her full, poor soul, and the funeral rites of the supposed young King had been duly performed, she hid her face in her veil, and stern, dry eyed, resolved, made for the river bed There she found her nursling, and rested not at all till, through wild hill and dale, by precipices and peaks, she reached the fortress of Komulmer

Guard the life ol the King she cried to Aeysha Shab the governor and set the child upon his knee

Died to Save Udaipur

There is one more Rajput story a simple little story which yet lingers in the mind as one looks out on the lake at Udaipore—the story of the Princess Kishna Kumari the flower of Rajasthan Fifteen years of age lovely lovable she became the apple of discord between Sindhia Ju gut Singh of Ambar and Raj h of Marwar

Distracted by fear lest one or all of these importunate suitors should sack town and pala e he father condemned h r to die She took the poi on offered her *smiling* saying to her v eep ng mother Why grieve ? A Rajput maiden often enters the wo ld but to be sent from it Rather thank my father for giving you me till to day This happened late in the eighteenth century

Chose Death to Surrender Durgavati

Rani Durgavati cut a dashing figure in l fe her death was no less distinguished Thou h less well known than Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi and Rani Padmavati of Chittor Rani Durg vati of Garha Mandla was not a whit less valiant than these two women

The way this Gond Queen ruled her kingdom endeared her to her people And the heroic way she fought the vastly superior Moghul forces enshrined her in their affections She perished in the attempt to keep her kingdom but she lives for ever in the hearts of freedom lovers

It is proposed to keep her memory green by erecting a monument in Jabalpur and plans for this are well under way

The Gonds of whom about two million are to be found

in Madhya Pradesh, were a royal tribe Of the four ancient Gond royal families—Chanda, Kirana, Devgarh and Garha Mandla—the last named to which the Rani belonged, achieved great fame When Akbar was on the throne at Delhi, Dalpat Shah, as daring as he was handsome, son of Sangram Shah held sway at Garha Mandla

Brave & Pretty

At this same time, Durgavati, daughter of Shalivahan Chandel, Raja of Rath, near Mahoba swayed the hearts of men as much by her bravery as by her beauty

Some scholars say that Durgavati was the daughter of Padihar of Uchera This finds mention in the list of Gond Kings submitted to the Governor General by a Commissioner of Jabalpur in 1825 Mr Cunningham, one of the British officers, identifies Durgavati as the daughter of Kirat Singh of Kalinger Abul Fazil, however, records that she was the daughter of Salivahan of Chandel Vansa Chroniclers may disagree on this point, but they are definite on the other one—of her legendary beauty

None but the brave deserves the fair And so it was in Durgavati s ca e Her marriage with Dalpat Shah is a thrilling episode clothed in the full glroy of romance and chivalry of mediaeval knights

Legend, which lives to this day among the Gonds, says that the flame of love was kindled in them by glorious re ports of each other reaching them regularly As with Nala and Damayanti, so with Dalpat and Durga According to a story mentioned in the Abhinandan Granth, they met at a mela at Mahoba and fell in love at first sight

The course of true love never did run smooth, said the bard It did not in Durgavati's case The Raj Gonds, though they called themselves Kshatriyas, were looked upon as a lower caste by the true Kshatriyas Durga's father,

proud of his Kshatriya blood would not give the hand of his fair daughter to one who is not a Kshatriya disapproved of the alliance with Dalpat and fixed up her wedding with a neighbouring K hatriya youth

Things soon came to a head Durga acted with speed She sent a message to Dalpat I will be going for vorship at Durga s temple on the outskirts of Mahoba on Vasant Panchami day Take me away then If you miss that opportunity I will be somebody else s

She was not destined to be somebody el e s however Dalpat arrived at the temple of Durga on the appointed day with it is stated t velve thousand soldiers and carried away his sweetheart

Dalpat and Durga got married according to ancient rites at Singhorgarh about 38 miles from Jabalpur on the Sagar road This was in 1540 A D

Sangram Shah died shortly after and Dalp t became ruler in 1541 He lived for about five years more and died when their only son Vir Narayan was three years old Rani Durgavati appointed him ruler and took the reins of administration as regent She chose Adhar Kayasth as Chief Minister to help her in ruling the kingdom

Her fifteen year rule was a saga of glory More glorious was her stern resistance to the invading Moghuls

It began this way Asaf Khan the Nawab of Manakpur and Sub dar of Akear viewed the prosperous kingdom of Rani Durgavati covetously and sought a cause to go to war

It is said that on behalf of Emperor Akbar Subedar Asaf Khan sent Durgavati a golden charkha as a present. The implied insinuation was that women are born not to rule but to spin

Rani Durgavati wasted no time in giving a suitable reply. She sent a golden "pinjan" an instrument to clean cotton as a present.

Cause of War

The implied insinuation was that if women must spin, men must process the cotton. It may be noted here that in Hindi "Pinjada' is used to denote a useless fellow. This Asaf Khan thought, was a wanton insult at the Badshah and ordered attack.

There is another story about the immediate cause of war. Durgavati had a white elephant (literally not figuratively) which Akbar asked for. Growing angry when Durgavati refused to oblige, he ordered mobilisation.

Accounts available now of that grim battle say that Asaf Khan reached Singhorgarh with 6,000 cavalry men many guns and 12 000 infantrymen.

Durgavati was taken by surprise but was not intimidated. At the time she had, at first, only 500 cavalry men. She assembled whatever forces she could and prepared for battle at Garha. The pursuing enemy forces did not permit this. The Rani then formed the battle line on a maidan between Garha and Mandla. She had less than 5,000 soldiers. They knew the use of gun powder but had no guns at all. The Gonds relied mainly on bows and arrows and their swords. They were, however, meeting vastly superior forces.

The first day of the battle scared the Moghul forces. Their guns had not yet arrived.

On the second day the Rani arriveed on the battle field on elephant-back. She would have celebrated an outright victory then and there but for the fact that the Moghul forces had got their guns by that time.

Against all rules of the game at that time Asaf Khan made a surprise attack The Rani gathered her forces and gave battle The Queen rained arrows on the enemy from her seat on the elephant Unfortunately an enemy arrow hit her in the eye She pulled it out but its point broke and remained in the wound Despite this she did not give up fighting

The tide of war was now turning against her A river in the rear of her forces that had been dry had overnight got so swollen that even the el phant could not cros it With gunfire in front and a river in spate behind th Rani faced a grave crisis The Queen s mahout pleaded that he would somehow get the elephant across the river and would take her to safety

But the Queen aid No Eitl er I win or die here

The next moment an arrow pierced her neck In the meantime a report reached her ears that her 18 year old son Vir Narayan who was al o in the thick of battle was killed This spread confusion in the ranks A tu lly he was only wounded Soon the Rani was surrounded by the enemy forces

Kills Herself

Rather than fall into enemy hands she decided to end her life and ordered her trusted lieutenant to kill her H would not and suggested they could still make good their escape

But Durgavati was not of the type that flees the field of battle When he said he would not kill her she snatched a sword from her mahout and ended her life with it

On the spot where she fell near the village of Barela in Jabalpur district a shrine known as Durgavati Chabutra has been built

The son continued fighting until he, too, fell Asaf Khan, victorious, proceeded towards the fort The women there, who, feared falling into Muslim hands preferred burning themselves to death, in accordance with Rajput tradition *K P Narayanan in The Times of India*

MADAM CAMA*

She First Unfurled Flag

Madame Cama was India's first woman revolutionary, who unfurled our first national flag in a foreign country as long ago as August 18, 1908

The story of her tempestuous life, her revolutionary career, long torturous exile, her service and sacrifice makes thrilling reading

But there exists not a single biography of this brave woman, and the historians of our fight for freedom have sadly neglected her

Here then, is the story of a forgotten pioneer, collected from old files, dust laden chronicles and odd records, and heard from the mouths of those who had visited her at her Parsi boarding house

Parsi by religion, Indian by birth, Madame Cama was born in Bombay Her father, Sorabji Framji Patel, was a well known merchant of Bombay and brought up his favourite child in all the luxuries he could afford

She went to Europe for medical treatment but love for Indian freedom turned her a crusader for India

* How she helped Indian Revolutionaries is a glorious chapter of her life Full story in second edition

Madame Cama was the first Ind an to agitate for a national flag a flag that would inspire all Indians and help to bring them under one banner And for this alone her memory should always be with us

In 1908 Jean Jaures famed leader of the French Social ists invited Madame Cama to the International Socialist Conference at Stuttgart as a fraternal delegate from India

There she gave a fi ry ex tempore speech espousing the cause of India s freedom condemning the atrocities of the British bureaucrats and amid thundering applause she unf irled India s first national flag on August 18 1908

Her FLAG WAS A TRICOLOUR GREEN SAF FRON AND RED EIGHT LOTUSES WERE EMBROI DERED ON THE GREEN STRIP ON THE SAFFRON STRIP WERE THE WORDS BANDE MATRAM IN HINDI WHILE ON THE RED STRIP WERE THE IMAGES OF THE SUN AND THE CRESCENT RE-PRESENTING THE HINDUS AND THE MUSLIMS

Imagine a tall but frail Indian woman dressed in a long sleeved blouse and flowing Parsi styled sari givin a stirring speech unfurling our first Tricolour in a foreign country — Germany — proudly and fearlessly way back in 1908 when India was still slumbering under a foreign yoke when Gandhiji and Nehru had not yet appeared on the Indian scene

For 35 years she carried on her revolut onary activities She started a journal named *Bande Matram* and fought on for India s freedom and refused to return to India on a British passport

But after 35 years of exile, she became homesick. Weighed down with age, she desired to return to India. But the British Government refused to give her a passport.

Though she was weak and aged, hardly able to walk or stand or speak or write, the British Government demanded a written guarantee from her that she would not hold any meetings or make speeches.

Reluctantly, after great persuasion and with tears of humiliation she signed the guarantee and came to India not to live but to die.

Hardly had she landed in Bombay when she was taken to the Parsi General Hospital, where after an illness of eight months, Madame Cama quietly passed away on August 16, 1936, unsung, unwept and unhonoured.

Though India and Bombay in particular, did nothing to perpetuate her memory, Paris erected a small and simple tombstone in her memory, in Pere la Chaise cemetery where a corner had been reserved by Madame Cama herself.

On it was engraved a simple yet stirring epitaph that will continue to inspire for all time all true lovers of liberty.

"Resistance to Tyranny is obedience to God."

(DEAN SHAW—*in The Bombay Chronicle*)

Brave Daughters of Bengal

On the 24th December, 1931, two girls of the Faizunisia Girl's School namely Shanti Ghose and Suniti Chaudhury acquired interview with Mr B G Stevens the magistrate of Comilla with a ruse, and shot him dead. The girls were arrested and sentenced to transportation for life. On the 6th February, 1932 another girl Bina Das who went to

receive the B A degree shot at the Governor Sir Sta Jackson She fired five tim s but failed to kill Bina Das was arrested tried and sentenced to transport for life *

In Midnapore one after another three magi trates killed For a time the district of Midnapore became a of terror for the I C S people Being posted there supposed to be tantamount to receiving the senten death On the 29th July 1932 Mr Elison the addi D M of Tippera was shot dead On the 7th August Alfred Watson the editor of the Statesman was shot at he was coming down from his motor car but he was The assailant could not be arrested as he at once potassium cyanide Sir Watson was shot because the S man was following an anti Ind an policy On the August Mr Grosby the addit onal S P of Dacca was at On the 24th September 193? a bomb was throw the European Club at Chittagong resulting in the dea several Europeans At a distance of a hundred yards the club the dead body of Pre ti Lata a girl revoluti was recovered On the 28th September Sir Alfred W was again shot at from a motor car but he was again s On the 18th November Mr Charlet Luke the Super dent of Rajshahi Central Jail was fired upon but he es with some slight injuries On the 8th May 1934 Sir Anderson the governor of Bengal was shot at but he es by a hair s breadth The brave assailant Bina Das was to Andamans She later became a member of B Assembly

Immortal Preeti Lata

Revolutionary Bengal produced many a brave he who laid down their lives to see mother India free I Lata was one of the bravest of this order of Heroines

I name I my da ght r fte h in 1932 (Ch m Lal)

She along with twelve revolutionaries including three young heroines Nirmala Chakarvarti Kalpana Dutt and Subhashini Devi, raided the European Club at Chittagong on the sea coast Bombs and revolvers were freely used in the attack as a result of which twelve Englishmen were injured and one was killed

The brave Preeti Lata was also injured seriously She took poison preferring death to arrest by the enemy Her companians however escaped to safety Salute to the woman hood of Bengal

Women Satyagrahis*[1]

All was still But it was a false quiet, taut and charged with tension Any moment the men crouching on the ground expected the uneasy silence to crackle and snap into brittle pieces

Then it happened, Subhadra flag in hand, stood upright From the armed outpost a few yards in front of her, a gun barked and a bullet whizzed out The woman fell, shot in the neck

The scene was enacted in Banda on the Goa border, on August 15, 1955

Similar scenes been enacted before on innumerable occasions Many of them are on record and many heroines have died unsung Indeed, the response which the women of India have given to the call of freedom constitutes one of the finest chapters in our national history

Died With Flag

Typical of women s contribution to our national struggle is the story of a 73 year old Bengali woman, Shrimati

Matangini Hazra who in the August revolution of 1942 led a procession in defiance of Government orders

She marched on when she was ordered to stop She was beaten severely on her aged hands but she still held the national flag A bullet ran right through her forehead and she fell down dead the flag still in her grip *

Youngest Heroine

Numerous such instances of heroism may be quoted Gandhiji himself in his Satyagraha In South Africa — a history of the Passive Resistance movement under his leadership in 1907 14 paid tribute to Valliamma Munuswami a 16 year old girl of Johannesburg who fell serving the cause of freedom

How can I forget her ? wrote the Mahatma Valliamma s service is imperishable—her glorious image has a niche even now reserved for it in many a heart

Kasturba

Nor was Gandhiji slow to acknowledge the debt he owed to Kasturba She was one of the bravest women I have ever met He even said he had learnt the technique of satyagraha from her [1]

Ba was the first Indian woman to court imprisonment as a civil resister in South Africa She was jailed several times during the struggle for freedom in India She was also the first woman satyagrahi to lay down her life in prison

When he visited England in 1909 Gandhiji met many leaders of the Women s Franchise Campaign and studied their movement He often said that he learnt much of the

Subhadra ev d th s b c tr d t n i Go S ty grah

During 1906, the Punjab was agitated due to the agrarian agitation in the Lyallpur Canal Colonies Lala Ji took no active part in the Anti canal Colonies Act agitation, but his sympathies were with the sufferers He at this time vigorously preached patriotism and Swedeshi in numerous meetings throughout the province

The Government regarded Lala Ji as a dangerous firebrand and decided to deport him to Mandlay This deportation of Lala Ji in 1907 opened a new chapter in his life It also became a landmark in the nationalist movement throughout the country The Government, however, soon realized its mistake and Lala Ji was allowed to return to India From now onward he became the idol of the nation and till his martyrdom continued to occupy the top place in the galaxy of national leadership Lala Ji travelled extensively in Europe, America and Japan and throughout kept in touch with political developments in India He was filled with admiration for Gandhiji, who was fast rising on Indian horizon as a leader with an elevating message for the rejuvenation of not only India but the whole humanity Lala Ji maintained extensive correspondence with Gandhiji and exchanged ideas with him on various problems concerning the country

He returned to India in time to preside over the Calcutta Congress (1920) The country "he declared' is at the present moment in the throes of a momentous struggle The Anglo Indian press has designated it as revolutionary There are many people to whom the word ' revolution" is like a red rag to a bull I am not one of them It is no use blinking the fact that we are passing through a revolutionary period, nay, we are already in the grip of a mighty revolution, a comprehensive and all covering one, religious intellectual, moral, educational, social, economic and political'

I first came into contact with Lala Ji on his return

Twenty eight year ago he departed from us (on November 17) as a result of lathi blows received at the hands of the representatives of an insolent Imperialist system While he was being beaten by the police sergeants on the occasion of a demonstration against the Simon Commission Lala Ji uttered the famous words which proved prophetic Every blow hurled at us is a nail struck in the coffin of the British Empire

Lala Ji was a self made man and rose to the highest place in our national life by virtue of his many sided genius His origin like that of many great men was humble He was born in 1865 at a small village called Dhadk near Jagraon in Ludhiana district his father L Radha Kishan being a school master and his grand father a village Patwari

Lala Ji was a great lover of books and liked in particular biographies of great men who had shaped History He wrote in Urdu the biographies of Mazzini and Garibaldi the Italian patriots and there is no doubt that his own life was considerably influenced by the exploits of these great men Lala Ji's writings became a source of great inspiration for the youth of the country He had been taking some interest in the Congress movement for some years and at the Banaras Congress (1905) he was already the recognized leader of the advanced wing Lala Ji found a common spirit in Balgangadhar Tilak who then occupied a dominating place in the Congress At the Calcutta Session of the Congress held next year Lala Ji exercised rather moderating influence on the extremists led by Tilak Gokhale himself admitted that it was Lala Lajpat Rai who saved the situation at Calcutta The bubble then burst at Surat in 1907 which led to the clash between the moderates and the extremists and resulted in split in the Congress

or danger Gandhi presented to this unbelieving world all that is noblest in the spirit of man He illumined human dignity by faith in the eternal significance of man's effort He belongs to the type that redeems the human race.

If Gandhi was able to rid himself of all rancour and hatred, to develop that flame of love which burnt up all impurities, if he feared no evil even though he walked in the valley of the shadow of death, if he represented to us the eternal voice of hope, it is because he believed in the heritage of India, the power of the inward life of spirit When problems material and spiritual crowded upon him, when conflicting emotions shook him when troubles oppressed him, he retired at will into the retreats of the soul, into the secret corridors of the self to gain strength and refreshment His life has revived and refreshed our sense of the meaning and value of religion Such men who are filled with spiritual poise and yet take upon themselves the burden of suffering humanity are born into the world at long intervals

We have killed his body, but the spirit in him which is light from above will penetrate far into space and time and inspire countless generations for nobler living

yad yad vibhutimat sattvam
srimad urjitam eva va
tat tad eva'vagaccha tvam
mama tejo amsasambhavam

Whatever being there is endowed with glory and grace and vigour, know that to have sprung from a fragment of My splendour —*Bhagavadgita* X 41

Dr Radhakrishnan

Lala Lajpat Rai—The Lion of the Punjab

Lala Lajpat Rai was a towering figure of his generation His was a dynamic personality, which has left its impression on our social, educational and political life

comprehendeth it not The struggle between light and darkness between love and hate between reason and unreason which is at the heart of the cosmi is shown up by this most mo ing tragedy of our age We mad Socrates drink death we nailed Jesus to the Cross we lighted faggots that burnt the medieval martyrs We have stoned and killed our prophets Gandhi has not escaped the fate of being misunderstood and hated He has met his death facing the forces of darkness of ultimate unreason and through it has increased the powers of light love and reason Who knows if Christianity would have developed had Jesus not been crucified ? Years ago Romain Rolland declared that he regarded Gandhi as a Christ who only lacked the Cross We have now given him the Cross also Gandhi s death was a classical ending to his life He died with the name of God on his lips and love in his heart * Even as he received the bullet wounds he greeted his murderer and wished him well He lived up to what he preached

Possessed and inspired by the highest ideals of which human nature is capable preaching and pract sing fearlessly the truth revealed to him leading almost alone what seemed to be a forlorn hope against the impregnable strongholds of greed and folly yet facing tremendous odds with a calm resolution which yielded nothing to ridicule

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Cf G dl ea l r stat m t 'Th elf f f on n o c nt m n m ll on t m m pot t th th self cr fce fa m ll m n wl l th a t f k ll g th rs I h pe tl t there w ll be no v l t n-co-op t gl Ind of whom t w ll be wr tt n they s ff ed b ll t with t g d w th pray r on th l ps es f tl g a t m d *Harjan* F bruary 2 1948 O J uary 20 1948 wh misg d d youth th ew bomb G dl t ld th Inspe t G er l f P l t t ha a h m y way Th y' h ll try t w h m o d t l m t r ght th k g d d g G dh w m d h l rs gainst be g gry w th th accused *H j* F b ry 1 1948 p 11

CHAPTER VIII

MARTYRS OF LIBERTY

"One armed man cannot resist a multitude, nor one army countless legions, but not all the armies of all the empires can crush the spirit of one true man. And that one man will prevail."

—Terence Macswiney, Great Irish Martyr

x x x x

Mother ! accept my sacrifice.

I pray to God that I be born again and again of the same mother (India) and die for her again until she regains her crown of freedom.'

—Madan Lal Dhingra

x x x x

Martyr's blood is the very life of a nation.

** It is easy for the foreign rulers to throw the ashes of martyrs in Sutlej river, but the laws of nature are eternal. The Tyrants will always lick the dust while the martyrs will shine like stars.'*

— M. Zafar Ali Khan

x x x x

No nation can lose its birth right of independence until it completely forgets its martyrs and has been so demoralised through avarice, luxury and indolence as to forget the virtues of national pride and selfrespect. The decay of the moral calibre of a nation paves the way for foreign domination.

—Lala Har Dayal

Gandhiji's Martyrdom

Gandhi has paid the penalty of all who are ahead of their time by meeting violent death. "The light shineth in darkness and the darkness

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* It may be recalled that the bodies of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were secretly creamated on the bank of Sutluj river and hot ashes were thrown into the water by the vindictive British rulers.

CHAPTER VIII

MARTYRS OF LIBERTY

MAHATMA GANDHI

LALA LAJPAT RAI

NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE

RASH BEHARI BOSE

CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD

BHAGAT SINGH

JATINDRA NATH DAS

value and methods of passive resistance from some of these British women and employed their technique in his political struggles

1*(DINA MEHTA—in *The Indian Express*)

Kamala Nehru

If ever there was a living martyr in India's freedom struggle it was Kamala Nehru the brave comrade of our national hero Jawahar Lal Nehru I was by the side of her sickbed once when she struggled between life and death and I can say without contradiction that she suffered a thousand times more than any member of her family she really suffered to bring rewards even to those who never knew *suffering* for a day She was an embodiment of sincerity love and sacrifice she lived a martyr and died a martyr

No better tribute could have been paid to her than by her husband in his autobiography

Delhi's Joan — Satyavati

She was one of India's bravest fighters for freedom was the tribute Mahatma Gandhi paid to Shrimati Satyavati after whom Satyavati Nagar the venue of the 57th session of the Indian National Congress was named in Delhi

Satyavati was born on January 26 1907 in a well to-do family of Ludhiana Her father Lala Dhaniram was a wellknown lawyer Her mother Shrimati Ved Kumari is the daughter of the great martyr Swami Shradhanand

Satyavati inherited her devotion to duty her courage and her abundant capacity for sacrifice from her maternal Grandfather Her impressionable and sensitive mind was

from America in 1920, after that since his death in 1928 remained closely associated with him During this period Lala Ji dominated the political life of the province as no body did before or has done since He embodied in himself the political aspirations of the Punjabis and men of all the schools of thought looked upon him for guidance and advice He might be correctly described as combining in himself the religious fire of Vivekananda and Dayananda, the moral fervour of Gandhi and Tagore, the political vision of Tilak and Aurobindo Ghosh, the practical genius of Naroji, Ranade and Gokhale He preached for the cause of his country with the ardour and religious zeal of a missionary He laboured for its poor and depressed as only a patriot could, he sacrificed his immense earnings with the readiness of a most generous hearted and willing philanthropist He suffered for it imprisonment and exile with the conscious and victorious resignation of a great martyr In him the Hero appears and shines as a Nation Builder

Long live the Lion of Punjab

(Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava)

Subhas Chandra Bose

" He is gone on mountain,
He is lost to the forest,
Like a summer dried fountain
When our need was the sorest '

Subhas Chandra combined the inspiration of Mazzini, the military genius of Garibaldi and the statesmanship of Cavour which worked for the achievement of the freedom of Italy

A BORN LEADER of men, Subhas Chandra was the most precious coin struck in the mint of Indian politics for

Subhas Chandra had no illusions about constitutional agitation in a subject country groaning under the pressure of a foreign rule He was not afraid of danger Indeed he was one of those from whom in dreadful days radiate cour ge confidence and hope

SUBHAS CHANDRA S LIFE was one of sacrifice for th servi e of h s country As a stud nt he had resented a European professor abusing his countrymen and he had tau ht the ff nding teach r a lesson which he could never forget When h successfully passed the Indian Civil Service Examination he—like Aurobindo Ghosh b fore him—heard his country call and at once decided to eschew the plain and pleasant path of the Heaven born Service He offered himself for the service of the country With unerring eye he found that the people were ready but a true leader was wantin Th leaders had erred on cr tical occasions and were hes tat ng So he resolved to take upon himself responsib lity of helping the country by going abroad and organising the I N A

WHEN Subhas Chandra left India the clouds of the Global War were darkening the political horizon of the world In th s w r Subhas Chandra saw the opportunity of India and unlike his comrades who misunderstood and misinterpreted h s intention worked with fev rish activity to l berate India Out of nothing he created an army the f mous I N A the idea of which had been adumbrated and advanced in th F r East by Rash B hari Bose The enthusiasm h could evoke woul l be evident from the follo in n ws which transpired in New Delhi in Oct 1945

I f rm n re chin lere shows h w the fund f the A ad Hind League a d the Ind an Nat onal rmy was raised The Leag e c llected ab ut Rs 8 crores f r ca ryi g o t its activiti s

M S has Cha a B se whe ever he addressed meetin s used to be ga la d a d the garlands were put up to auction after his sp ech The f st auction fetched rupees one lakh, the second

auction rupees two lakhs, the third auction rupees three lakhs and the last auction fetched twelve lakhs"

"In one of the auctions one Punjabi gentleman entered into a bid and purchased garlands for all his properties Next day when the garlands faded away he took the garlands near his heart and worshipped them"

"Wherever Mr Bose addressed a meeting the audience was between twenty and twentyfive thousand Men, women and children attended the meetings from far off places Rain or the sun did not deter them and Mr Bose used to speak for three to four hours at a stretch"

It has transpired that Subhas Chandra was weighed against gold four times by Indians, Malayans and Burmese The gold was later on earmarked for the I N A

One of the prisoners of war said that the request of a Burmese merchant to place a crown bedecked with diamonds on Sj Subhas Bose's head on the latter's birthday was turned down by Sree Bose who said he was not prepared either to accept or wear a crown

THE ACHIEVEMENT of Subhas Chandra made the British shake off their superiority complex and realise what Reckards had told them about a hundred years back that 'fleshly arms and the instruments of war, are but a fragile tenure and 'soon to nothing brought when opposed to the interests, and the will of an enlightened people —a people determined to vindicate its manhood and secure its birth right—freedom

The achievements of I N A, with Subhas Chandra in its supreme command, were like an earthquake, one of those seismic disturbances in which nations leap forward or fall backward by generations, in a single bound The I N A has no parallel in the history of the world Subhas Chandra had faith in military action In Japan he characterised

his and Gandhiji's political ideas as only different roads to the same simple goal orly unlike Gandhiji he b lieved that military action vould stir the blood and passion of his colleagues as well as the masses and such action was necessary for the ultimate success of the Indian emancipation movement even if he himself should die miserably in failure

Subhas Chandra mysteriously disappeared after he had saved India from devastation by Japanes bombing He had shown the way to his countrymen to realise true and full independence

(*Hemendra Prasad Ghosh*)

Jatindranath Das

We are proud of hundreds of heroic youngmen and women who laid down their lives at the altar of freedom during the several centuries by voluntarily suffering deaths or equally agoniz ng persecutions to assert the dignity of truth and to establ sh the right of one s convictions

Many had cheerfully embraced the gallows in the cause of In lia s freedom but Indian h story was still the poorer for an example of a youngman deliberately and volunta ily agreeing to br ng about his own extinction by the hallowed but agonizing process of self starvation to protest against the indignities heaped on his fellow compatriots and the i justices suffered by his colleagues Jatindran th Das by his glorious martyrdom enriched Indian history by his unique sacrif ce

The world has produced many heroes and numerous martyrs The world has even produced a Terrence Macswiney but never before in human history had a youngman of 6 gone through the agony of self starvation for 63 days staring death in the face boldly unflinchingly indomitably actually inviting it and then succumbin to it without a word of complaint or cry of pain or a shadow of f ar

Young Jatin was born of inconspicuous parents He himself was little known before his glorious sacrifice But by his unique martyrdom Jatin today stands amongst the small but glorious galaxy of immortal heroes of all climes and for all times to come He has shown how even the poorest, the humblest and the youngest amongst his countrymen can exalt himself to the position of a deity, by standing implacably and undauntedly for the assertion of a great principle and the rights of the downtrodden on God's earth

Pt Jawaharlal Nehru's Tribute

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, speaking at a meeting held in Kanpur on the death of Jatindra Nath Das, said —

"Another name has been added to the long and splendid roll of Indian martyrs Another of India's brave youngmen has willingly made ultimate sacrifice at the altar of his Motherland He has done well He requires no word of praise or sorrow from us After his long and terrible agony, he has gained freedom and gone to regions where the British Empire does not hold sway nor British Imperialism oppress and darken the lives of men and women

Rash Behari Bose—(A Forgotten Hero)

I will come to India at the helm of an Indian army of freedom through the Jungles of Burma and Assam, "said Rash Behari Bose to the Editor of this book in September, 1933 in Tokyo And he almost kept his promise but alas he died a year before his Indian National Army heroes compelled the British to declare, "We are leaving India'

Born in Chandernagore just about 69 years ago, Rash Behari joined the revolutionaries of Bengal in his teens

These young men believed in force, in violence, as

He disappeared suddenly and the Japanese Forei n Office obligingly told the British that the man they wanted could not be traced

Rash Behari stayed underground for the duration of the war and emerged later as a Japanese subject

I became a Japanese subject so that I may live to become a subject of Free India he said

He also married a Japanese lady the daughter of the patriot who offered him asylum during the term of his disappearance

Mrs Bose died years before the outbreak of World War II and his son a Lieutenant in the Japanese army died in the battle of Okinawa All that is left of the Bose family now is a daughter who is staying in Tokyo

One feature of his war time broadcasts to India was a series of personal appeals to the nation s leaders

It was he who coined the term Father of our Nation in addressing Mahatma Gandhi

No leader in history has ever transferred his authority to another man with the grace dignity and goodwill and total self-effacement that Rash Behari Bose displayed when he handed over the mantle of power to Subhas

It was Rash Behari who contacted Subhas in Berlin on the radio te ephone and invited h m to come to East As a It was he who made all the preliminary arrangements for his own abdication !

At the C thay Cinema Hall in Singapore the man who threw the bomb at Hardinge the terrorist who set out to blast the British out of India seemed the happ est

man on earth as he cast affectionate glances at the towering figure of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose seated next to him

"Now, you may ask me what present I have brought you Here he is Subhas Chandra Bose, the leader, who will henceforward guide and direct our sacred struggle "

There were tears in his eyes—tears of genuine happiness and pride

It was like a father handing over charge to his beloved son

It was like a Guru blessing his disciple, with pride and happiness

On that day, there were louder cheers for Rash Behari Bose than for Subhas Chandra Bose

New Spirit

Eighteen months packed with momentous events

Under Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the Indian Independence movement assumed a new shape It became stronger, more popular, more dynamic

The hand of youthful leadership was evident on all sides

The Azad Hind Fauj moved into action, hoisted the national tricolour on Indian soil

The epic battles of Imphal and Kohima and then the turn of the tide and the retreat of the freedom fighters

But, there was victory even in that defeat

* * *

While the military campaign on the Indo-Burma frontier was in full swing, Rash Behari Bose lay in bed at his Tokyo home

He kept a radio nearby and followed the developments hourly

He was very very sick The doctor had secretly told us that his days were numbered

I happ ned to be in Tokyo at the time on a special ass gnment for the Azad Hind Government And I used to call on the good old Bose every morning

He was happy and yet worried

The liberation campaign was go ng on well But the trend of the war seemed to have changed

The Tokyo blitz had already started

American B 29s visited Tokyo day in and day out Bombs f ll on all sides Destruction was mounting and Japanese war leaders had confided to him that the war was going the wrong way

His Anxiety

Will they be able to get some where in India before the worst happens ?

That was Rash Behari s concern for the Azad Hind Fauj

The only answer was the crashing of bombs in the neighbourhood

And on bleak wintry morning Rash Behari Bose passed away

The broadcasts he heard as he breathed his last gave him th assurance that the dawn of India s freedom was at hand

But the crashing of bombs confused him all the time

A few days later, the little house he had built in Tokyo's suburbs went up in flames

As A Man

Rash Behari the Rebel and Terrorist Rash Behari the Patriot in Exile Rash Behari the leader of the Independence Movement Rash Behari the man

Which of these aspects of the old war horse have I admired most ?

My admiration has all along been for Rash Behari the Man—the man, who won friends and influenced people through love and affection, the man, who practised the code of "Anasakta Karma" and did it in his own humble and silent manner

Has the cult of Anasakta Karma abdicated from our motherland with the demise of Mahatma Gandhi ?

If it has not, let us pay our humble homage to the man who was the Father of India's second Great war of Independence, the man who raised the Standard of Free India all the way from the Chindwin to Yokohama, that unknown martyr to the cause of Indian freedom, Rash Behari Bose

Can you conjure up a fascinating combination of Bhagat Singh, Gandhiji and a Japanese nobleman ?

If you can, you have an idea of Rash Behari Bose

(M S)*

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*I must congratulate the writer on his most beautiful and inspiring sketch o fthe great revolutionary genius

(The Editor)

Bhagat Singh

In the long line of martyrs in the cause of India s freedom the name of Bhagat Singh will ever be remembered with pride and gratitude He literally immolated himself at the altar of his country s independence and if today we are free our freedom is in no small measure due to the sufferings and sacrifices of patriots like him Thou h he discarded the Gandhian way of non violence and became the le der of the revolutionary movement, he carved for himself a niche in the temple of fame Young in years h acquitted himself in life like a seasoned soldier His remarkable courage and daring his unalloyed patriotism his unshakable determination and his unflinching faith in the ideal he pursued won for him even the respect of those who did not approve of his political methods

Bhagat Singh s martyrdom on March 23 1931 in the Lahore Central Jail caused a wave of indignation seldom witness d before to sweep the country All sections of the people including the votaries of non violence were stirred to their very depths by the news of the unexpected execution of Bhagat Singh and his two comrades Sukhdev and Rajguru in the teeth of the unanimous wishes of the people Even the great Mahatma who in deference to public opinion had taken up the question of commu tation of the death sentence against Bhagat Singh and his companions with the Viceroy in the course of his negotiations for the Gandhi Irwin Pact was deeply struck by Bhagat Singh s selfless patriotism and spirit of sacrifice and though he never approved of his methods he had to admit that his misuse of his extraordinary courage had been forgotten in the midst of many virtues

When the news of the execution of Bhagat Singh was conveyed to the Mahatma who was on his way to Kara hi where a Congress session was to be held under th

presidency of Sardar Patel, he was visibly moved, because inspite of the Viceroy's having made no definite promise to him, he thought the Government would not be so foolish as to flout public opinion He said "The Government have lost a golden opportunity of winning over the revolutionary party It was their clear duty, in view of the settlement (Gandhi Irwin Settlement), at least to suspend indefinitely the execution By their action they have put a severe strain upon the settlement Jawaharlal Nehru expressed his sorrow at India's helplessness in saving the life of one "whose magnificent courage and sacrifice had been an inspiration to the youth of India" He said more in a spirit of elation than sorrow that "there will be pride in him who is no more and when England speaks to us and talks of settlement there will be the corpse of Bhagat Singh between us lest we forget"

These memorable words, not uttered in the usual conventional sense by two of India's foremost sons, showed the great love and regard Bhagat Singh inspired in the hearts of his countrymen

The Karachi session of the Congress, which came off within three or four days of the execution of Bhagat Singh, was completely overshadowed by his martyrdom, and even the Mahatma felt that the folly of the Government had imperilled the acceptance by the Congress of the Gandhi Irwin Pact to which he was a party The Congress itself met in an atmosphere of poignancy, excitement and resentment, and it seemed the spirit of Bhagat Singh was asking everybody to avenge his death by liberating India from foreign yoke without any delay That spirit dominated the whole proceedings of the Congress, and, but for the Mahatma, the Gandhi Irwin Pact would have been rejected Even the Mahatma had to pull his whole weight and undoubted influence to convince the delegates that they should not repudiate the Pact because of the blunder committed by the Government

A Family of Heroes

Bhagat Singh had the proud privilege of belongin to a family known for its patriotism and spirit of service His father Sardar Kishen Singh his uncle Sardar Ajit Singh his mother as well as his brothers and sisters—in fact all had dedicated their lives to the service of their country He drank the spirit of patriotism with the milk of his mother Even at an early age he developed stoic indifference to death if it was to come in the cause of his country A few days before the pecial Tribunal which tried Bhagat Singh and others in the Saunders Murder trial and with which the accused completely non cooperated vas to pronounc judgement Sardar Kishen S ngh moved by fatherly love made a petition to the Tribunal requesting it to allow him to prove that Bhagat Singh had not been at Lahore on the day Mr Saunders had been murdered When he became a vare of the petition Bhagat Singh protested vehemently against the action of his fath r In a long letter to him imploring him not to pursue the petition Bhagat Singh wrote This is the time when everybody s mettle is being tested. Let me say father you have failed I know you are as sincere a patriot as one can be I know you have devoted your life to the cause of independence But why at this moment have you displayed such weakness ? I cannot understand

These insp ring words gave one an idea of the feelings and emotions in the mind of youn Bhagat Sin h th great patriot No wonder to use the words of the Mal atma there never has been within the living memory so m ch romance round any l fe as had surrounded that of Bhagat Singh

(Amolak Ram Shourie
in the Advance)

Pandit Nehru's Tribute

Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru assessing this event wrote in his autobiography — "Bhagat Singh did not become popular because of his act of terrorism, but because he seemed to vindicate the honour of Lala Lajpat Rai and through him of the Nation He became a symbol the act was forgotten, the symbol remained, and within a few months each town and village of the Punjab and to a lesser extent the whole of Northern India resounded with his name Innumerable legends grew up about him and the popularity that the man achieved was something amazing"

Chandra Shekhar Azad

Azad symbolises, if any one person can symbolise one whole movement, the post non co operation Revolutionary movement in India He was a student of a sanskrit pathshala, at Banaras when Mahatma Gandhi started the non co operation movement in 1921 Although he was a mere boy he joined the movement and was awarded fifteen stripes by the magistrate

At every stroke of the whip, he shouted "Mahatma Gandhi ki Jai" because that had come to be the battle cry of renascent India The Nationalist Press duly lionised him and he was given a great ovation after his release from the prison The present Chief Minister of U P Babu Sampurnanand happened to be editor of the 'Maryada Hindi monthly, published by the philanthropist Babu Shiv Prasad Gupta This magazine published a full page photo of the boy hero

Later on Azad joined the Kashi Vidyapith He had a restless soul He was not satisfied with Gandhiji's calling off of the non co operation movement because of Chauri Chaura

incident when some police men were burnt alive This mob fury had made Gandhiji call off the entire movement Some called it The Blunder of Bardoli because the decision was made at Bardoli in Gujrat

The old revolutionaries who had very patriotically withdrawn their movement to give Gandhiji s experiment a fair chance began to form nuclei which were gradually welded into one big revolutionary party of Northern India under the old revolutionary Shri Sachindranath Sanyal Rajendranath Lahiri and some others from Banaras had already joined the party Manmathnath had the singular good fortune of introducing Azad to the revolutionary party Since then he became an asset to the party Whenever the leader of the violence section Shri Ram Prasad Bismil required brave young men for carrying out hold ups and other such work Azad was there

He was one of the men who held up the train at Kakori a small station near Lucknow (A detailed description of the Kakori conspiracy would be given in the second edition) Through his born revolutionary genius his unique heroism and power of organisation Azad became the virtual leader of Hindustan Socialist Republican Army founded by the great revolutionary Sachindra Nath Sanyal who had spent several years in the Andamans Sanyal was also responsible for bringing in Bhagat Singh to this band of brave warriors and to the last day Azad and Bhagat Singh worked like a team The murder of Saunders (Police officer) at Lahore was the result of their excellent team work How Azad disappeared as leader of a Pilgrim Party and Bhagat Singh as a Sahib from within the iron ring of Lahore Police that day will always remain an inspiring Chapter in the revolutionary annals of India Bhagat Singh courted arrest in the Assembly Chamber (in 1929) after throwing bombs along with comrade B K Dutt But Azad could not be arrested inspite of the best efforts of the British

Police Later on he was surrounded in a park at Allahabad There a revolver fight followed in which Azad was killed It is said that he was the victim of a foul play He was a great patriot and hero who lived and died for his country

It is very heartening that the U P Government has set up a memorial to Shri Azad at the spot where he died a heroe's death

I am sure time will soon come when such memorials will become temples of patriotism, inspiring the coming generations to fight for preservation of hard won independence at the cost of sacrifices of thousands of martyrs Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Rash Bihari Bose, Jatindra Nath Das, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Jatin Mookerjee Surya Sen, Preetilata Matangini, Bhagat Singh and the known and unknown heroes of the I N A, warriors of 1857 and heroes of Quit India movement, will be the future gods of free India Only those nations that honour their martyrs can maintain freedom and honour

Long live the Martyrs of Ind

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and police Even now there are 3 000 political prisoners in Indian Jails most of them detained without trial

Very few of the actual facts of this campaign of repression have been made known The Indian Government has maintained a strict censorship of Indian news and details of police attacks and acts of violence have been suppressed People throughout the world have b en kept in ignorance of the scale on which the campaign was carried out and of the brutality of the methods employed I have already mentioned in the Introduction a list of Christian methods used to crush the independence struggle

The following pages contain reports and evidence of certain witnesses on events which took place in India in 1930 1931 and 1932 The collection of evidence and the preparation of reports were carried out by committees of enquiry In the case of Peshawar the Committee of Enquiry was appointed by the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress These records show the actual methods of repressions which are being used under British rule against the people of India and give some impression of what has been happening in all parts of Ind a over a period of many years from 1930 onward

Brave Garhwali Soldiers

The report on Peshawar constantly refers to the non violence of the people who faced the savage attacks of police and troops It records the action of the Garhwali Rifles who refused to fire on the crowd simply as additional proof that th people were unarmed and were offering no resistance This heroic act of solidarity with the oppressed people—one of the finest in the long history of colonial struggles—was a definite challenge to the power of the British in India The Government s recognition of this was shown by the heavy sentences imposed on these troops Yet the report states that —

"The sole ground on which these platoons refused to fire was that the people at whom they were asked to level their rifles were unarmed and peaceful"

Hundreds killed in Peshawar —Soon after the civil disobedience movement was started, the Government fired its first shot at Peshawar in the North West Frontier, which gave a unique response to Gandhi's call The brave Pathans, each one of whom could smash several British heads, remained perfectly calm and suffered extreme penalties Hundreds were killed, thousands were imprisoned, flogged and tortured, but they did not move a finger The brutal performance commenced on 23rd April and the arrest of prominent leaders

The findings of the Congress Inquiry Committee, which was presided by the late Mr Patel, President of the Indian Parliament, include the following

(1) In the situation that had arisen at Peshawar on the 23rd April, firing by the armoured cars and the military was wholly unjustifiable

(2) The object of firing was not so much to disperse the crowd as to use as much force as the authorities considered necessary to strike terror into them Firing was therefore resorted to recklessly, indiscriminately and for an inordinate length of time And it was not confined merely to the bazaar but was extended to side streets, by-lanes, balconies and other places round about

(3) The number of persons actually proved to have been killed is 125, but we have no doubt that a much larger number must have been killed and a still larger number wounded Proof in respect of this large number killed and wounded it is impossible to secure in the conditions now obtaining in the province Such proof as had been colletced

by the Congre s Committee after the 29th April was seized by the m litary on the 4th May since when further inquiries have become impossible o\ ing to the continued presence of the military in the city Similar shootings were practised all over India

TAGORE CONDEMNS BARBARISM The tra ic happenings of Dacca and Chittagong are mentioned in the next chapter as a part of the Unchristian Deeds Here let me refer to the tragedy of Hijli in the words of the world renowned poet Tagore

Shooting of political prisoners in Hijli Camp caused country wide resentment and on Saturday September 26 there was a huge protest meeting of the citizens of Calcutta on the Maidan presided over by Rabindranath Tagore Addre sing this vast gathering the poet commenting on the tragic and cowardly outrage said

WHENT I FIND THAT SUCH AN ACT OF TERRORISM MAY BE PERPETRATED ALMOST CONTEMPTUOUSLY IN UTTER DISREGARD OF PUBLIC OPINION I FEEL SURE THAT IT IS BUT ONE MORE OF THE SIGNS OF DETERIORATION THAT HAS ENFEEBLED THE MORAL CHARACTER OF BRITISH RULE IN INDIA PRESAGING FOR US A FATE THAT IS DARK WITH A TENDENCY TOWARDS AN EASY SUCCESSION OF ENORMITIES WHEN HUMILIATION AND SUFFERING ARE INDIS CRIMINATELY INFLICTED UPON THE HELPLESS IT BRINGS ABOUT A DEMORALIZATION IN THE AGENTS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT AND WHO BLINDLY BRING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BASIS OF CIVILISED GOVERNMENT

I am here only to give warning on behalf of my countrymen that no Government however proud it may be

of its enormous resources for repression of freedom, can never afford to lose its dignity—the dignity of justice, unwavering honesty even under provocation Our people may not have the physical means for resisting injustice but no power can obstruct them from passing moral judgement and on their judgement must every Government, however utterly alien it be, depend for its very existence."

SHOOTING UNARMED YOUTHS "Whatever may be the motives and the causes of the firing in Hijli Camp, the fact which cannot be denied is that there was shooting down and charges on a body of unarmed young men who were the untried prisoners of Government They had been taken away from their homes, studies or work and imprisoned for an indefinite period of time None of them knew that offence they had committed, or when they would be set free To open fire on these men, even when there is undoubted provocation for annoyance—the unarmed state of the detenues absolutely rules out any possibility that there was provocation for anything graver—is not only a crime against humanity, it is also a crime against statecraft"

GOD FEELS ASHAMED—TAGORE ON AERIAL BOMBING Only a great poet like Tagore could have found appropriate words to condemn the aerial bombing in India by British rulers Villages on the North West Frontier are quite accustomed to annual bombing by airplanes, and it continues while I write these line in the year 1937 Dr Tagore s soul was moved on the occasion of a recent bombing display and he issued the following statement to the press —

"From the beginnig of our days man has imagined the seat of divinity to be in the upper air from which comes light and blows the breath of life for all creatures on this earth The peace of its dawn, the splendour of its sunset, the voice of eternity in its starry silence have inspired countless generations of men with an ineffable presence of

the infinite urging their minds away from the sordid interests of daily life Man has accepted this dust laden earth for his dwelling place for the enacting of the drama of his tangled life ever waiting for a call of perfection from the boundless depth of purity surrounding him in a translucent atmosphere If in the evil moment man s cruel history should spread its black wings to invade that realm of divine dreams with its cannibalistic greed and fratricidal ferocity than God s curse will certainly descend upon us for that hideous desecration and the last curtain will be rung down upon the world of man for whom God feels ashamed

—*Rabindranath Tagore*

ENGLISH EARL S VERDICT As one who has been in the thick of the struggle for independence since 1920 I could give hundreds of stories of the brutality of God s Chosen Rulers but instead I shall quote only an English earl and philosopher Bertrand Russell and Miss Madeline Slade (daughter of a British Admiral) on British terrorism in India

BERTRAND RUSSELL WROTE AS FOLLOWS

To obtain a true picture of the present state of affairs in India is as important as it is difficult Many English people content themselves with the remark that India does not interest them If India were independent they would perhaps be justified in this attitude but so long as the British insist upon governing India they have no right to ignore what is done in their name by the Government which they have elected There has been no lack of interest in the misdeeds of the Nazis in Germany they have been fully reported in the press and have been commented on with self righteous indignation Few people in England (and in America) realize that misdeeds quite as serious are being perpetrated by the British in India Large numbers of men and women including many of the highest idealism

have been imprisoned under horrible conditions, often without any charge having been made against them and without any hope of being brought to trial

"The elementary liberties that make life tolerable have been taken away from the inhabitants of India, for the crime of desiring self government The censorship, combined with British apathy, has made it very difficult for the facts to become known If they could be widely known, there is, I am convinced, enough decent feeling in England to compel tha Government to mend its ways

"Widespread oppression, even when it succeeds for the moment, is both immoral and impolitic It cannot but produce a deep hatred, which may have to bide its time, but will burst out sooner or later In the end, if nothing better than force is used in our relations with India, cruelty will be met by cruelty, atrocities by counter-atrocities, the fine idealism of the Indian National Congress movement will be swept away by men who will have learnt from us to believe that the only appeal is to force I some moment of difficulties elsewhere, we shall find ourselves confronted by a movement we shall not be able to repress, and we shall lose India with ignominy To any man with any human feeling, or with any power of learning from history, such a prospect is painful Who now attempts to justify the period of black-and tan tyranny in Ireland ? Who, fifty years hence will have a good word to say for the present tyranny in India ? No one It is in our power to cause much misery, perhaps much moral deterioration, it is not in our power permanently to hold India by force

"Prison is at times unpleasant, and would not serve its purpose were it otherwise but there are some forms of unpleasantness which no tenable theory of punishment can justify The system of promoting criminals to be prison officials, when by their sycophancy they have wormed their way into the favour of the authorities, is one which we should

not *tolerate* at home and have no right to inflict upon India The *regulation* that prisoners are to have a fresh towel once every *nine* months does not err on the side of cleanliness The practice of herding Indian ladies of refinement with prostitutes in the last stages of venereal disease is a questionable one All these are matters independent of the question whether a system of government can be considered good which puts almost all the best people in prison while offering good careers to cowards and informers

The economic situation of agriculture in India is part of the world wide depression of agriculture There is an economic similarity between the situation of Indian peasants and the American farmers But the political differences are so great as to hide the economic similarity In America the farmers are able to bring about a change of administration a re organization of the banking system a change in the currency and perhaps a reform in the economic practice of the world In India the peasants are powerless against the landlords and the Government combined so that no economic lesson is learned from their hardships and they are expected to starve quietly without making a fuss Only people with political *power have a right to make* a fuss this is one of the great lessons of history and lest history should not sufficiently impress the Indians we are teaching it by the lathi (big bamboo stick) and I fear the ultimate result of their folly in India must be disaster

The Oriental Press New York

BRITISH RAJ DOOMED say British admiral's daughter

British barbarism is the most devilish cold blooded and unjustifiable in the history of nations India has now realised the true nature of British Raj (Rule) and with the realisation the Raj is doomed —*Madeline Slade*

The above revolutionary declaration was not made by an "Indian agitator" but by Miss Madeline Slade, the daughter of an ex Admiral in the British Navy She wrote in the Young India

"During these days when authorities in Whitehall and Simla are never tired of extolling the behaviour of the police, I thought I would go and see for myself how this 'exemplary b haviour' has affected the Satyagrahis at Dharasana I reached Bulsar at mid day on June 6th just as the wounded were being brought in there from the raid of that morning Many of them were being carried on stretchers, other could just struggle from the motors to hospital wards

"The beating and torturing has been most merciless today ! said the doctors and attendants I proceeded around the rooms to visit the Satyagrahis more closely and to take notes from doctors as to the nature of their wounds Literally I felt my skin creep and my hair to stand on end as I saw these brave men, who but a few hours previously had gone forth absolutely unarmed vowed to non violence, now lying here before me battered and broken from head to foot Here was a young man with his shoulders and buttocks so beaten he could not lie on his back, yet his arms and sides were so damaged that he did not know how to turn for rest There was another gasping for breath with his chest badly battered, and nearby was a strong tall Musselman lying utterly helpless 'What are his damages ?' I asked 'He has received fearful blows on the stomach the back and right leg, they replied 'Also his testicles are both swollen, having been badly squeezed by the police'

"We went upstairs Here my attention was attracted by the wounds of sharp-drawn whistling breathing, intermixed with heart rending groans It was a young man writhing in agony He kept catching his stomach, and at intervals he would suddenly sit up as if he were going to go

mad with pain He has had a deadly blow right in the abdomen they said And he has been vomiting blood He has also had his testicles severely squeezed which has shattered his nerves They fetched ice and applied it to the head and damaged parts which gradually soothed him

And so we went on from this house to another where we found still more and more wounded Everyone to whom I talked gave the same description of fiendish beating torturing thrusting and dragging and one and all spoke with burning horror of the foul abuse and unspeakable blasphemy which the police and their Indian and English superiors had poured upon them

So this is some of the exemplary behaviour of the police What then has become of English honour English justice ? Who could dare to uphold as a means of dispersing a non violent gathering 1 Lathi blows on the head stomach and joints 2 Thrusts with lathis in genital and abdominal region 3 Stripping of men naked before beating 4 The tearing off of loin cloths and the thrusting of sticks i to a man s anus 5 Pressing and squeezing a man s testicles until he becomes unconscious 6 Dragging wounded men about by their legs and arms often while they are being beaten 7 Throwing wounded men into thorn hedges or salt water 8 Riding horses over men as they lie or sit on the ground 9 Thrusting pins and thorns into men s bodies sometimes even become unconscious and other vile things too many to relate ?

The whole affair is one of the most devilish cold blooded and unjustifiable in the history of nations India has now realized the true nature of the British Raj (rule) and with the realization the Raj is doomed

The story will appear in full in my forthcoming book

Lo Life and Liberty

CHAPTER X

Heroes of Kashmir

KASHMIR—CROWN OF INDIA
MAQBOOL SHERWANI
COLONEL RAI
HEROES OF FIRST SIKH REGIMENT
IMMORTAL RAJENDRA SINGH
KHUSHAL CHAND HERO OF LADAKH
MAJOR SOMNATH
LT RANE
L/NAIK KARAM SINGH
NAIK JADUNATH SINGH
HAVILDAR MAJOR PIRU SINGH
HAVILDAR LAL BAHADUR
CAPTAIN KISHAN SINGH
MAHAVIRCHAKRA FOR LABOURER
A BRAVE DHOBI
HEROIC FEET OF GORKHA
GALLANT MAJOR CHOPRA
HERO OF KUMAON
HIS INSPIRING MESSAGE
HERO OF 700 CASUALTIES
BATTLE OF NAUSHEHRA
BRIGADIER MOHD USMAN
SALUTE TO BRAVE NUNS
BURNING OF BARAMULA
PAKISTAN'S BLACKEST DEED

CHAPTER X

HEROES OF KASHMIR

Kashmir is not a mere tourists paradise It is the crown of Mother India and has been so long before the Instigators (who are today creating bad blood between India and Pakistan) learnt to use bathrooms and pants

Today Kashmir s land has been further sanctified by the blood of our national heroes both civilian and military Ten years ago a new history was written on this land of our Rishis in the blood of our martyrs Hindus Muslims and Sikhs who vied with each other to defend the freedom of Kashmir against the hungry and nomad invaders whom the enemies of Indian fr edom lured with promises of fairies and gold

The glorious part played by our young officers of the Indian army in this struggle for liberty will alway be written in golden letters while 'The Rape of Baramula will go do vn as the blackest dee l of fanatics goaded by mullas pirs and pirate politicians of th Muslim League who had earlier to their credit the blood bath in Calcutta Ra valpindi and a hundred small towns and villages of N W F P and the Punjab

Maqbool Sherwani

To Maqbool Ahmad Sherwani a young lawyer goes th credit of saving Srinagar and the valley from loot and rape by raiders He by his unique intellect courage and deep rooted patriotism rendered yeomen services to Ka hmir He was unanimously elected leader of the people of Baramula who fought to ether for the defence of their town He by his wonderful tact misled the raiders in such a manner that their arrival in Srina_ar was cons derably delayed and the Aerodrome at Srinagar was saved for landing of our forces

The raiders nailed him and tortured him inch by inch but he died bravely shouting, "Long live United India"

Brave Colonel Rai

Colonel Rai was the first army hero who flew from Delhi into jaws of death and attained immortal glory

On a hillock between Pattan and Baramulla is a memorial to Col Rai who fell to a sniper's bullet, and to the men of the First Sikh Regiment who died with him Going over the terrain of the fighting before Srinagar one realises how perilously close were the raiders to capturing it But for the miracle of logistics which inspired our air force to rush troops to the beleaguered frontline and the courage and initiative of our soldiers, the whol of Kashmir might have been lost A negative factor was the folly of the tribal raiders who dallied at Baramulla to rape, burn, loot and pillage Had we on our part delayed the despatch of troops from Palam airport by 24 hours the Valley would have been lost.

The road to Uri abounds in memories of that heroic period Brigadier Mohammad Usman was another great patriot who died in defence of Naushehra

Immortal Rajendra Singh

New Delhi, February 25—The idol of the Jammu and Kashmir State forces Brigadier Rajendra Singh, was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra for gallantry in battle during the Kashmir operations The story of the action which won him the award is a remarkable piece in the glorious pattern of the military campaign in Kashmir Already a large amount of folk poetry has sprung up about the brave Brigadier

In October 1947 when the raiders seemed to carry everything before them, Brigadier Rajendra Singh, who

was then Chief of Staff Jammu and Kashmir State forces was called upon to stem the advance of the tribal hordes if Srinagar was to be saved Domel camp had been attacked heavily from all sides and needed immediate aid

Brigadier Rajendra Singh collected his men and his voice charged with emotion read out the Maharaja's orders to them To arms —the cry went round and not only regular troops but also civilians cooks mess waiters and orderlies attached to the unit took it up Thus he had at his disposal an ill assorted force of only about 150 men He however decided to march towards Domel It was now or never

Near Garhi Brigadier Rajendra Singh's contingent was heavily engaged and suffered serious losses The pressure of the enemy increased and the column was forced to withdraw to a place three or four miles from Garhi The hostiles greatly outnumbered our little force and it was impossible to hold out The contingent then withdrew towards Baramula where the Brigadier was able to get some small reinforcements

He reorganised the column and pushed towards Uri destroyed the Uri Bridge and went into defensive position fully determined to fight to the last There was a heavy exchange of fire with the enemy for four hours and the column was forced to withdraw to Mahura and then to Rampur The Brigadier managed to dig in under cover of darkness and gave fight to the enemy for eleven hours. When forced to abandon the position because of heavy losses, he planned to withdraw to an already reconnoitred position in the rear He had hardly covered a distance of 200 yards when he was hit in the right arm and right leg Although seriously wounded he continued to urge his men to fight and delay the enemy advance as far as possible. Being one of the last to leave the position the

Brigadier was rendered helpless and fell into the enemy's hands He died a martyr in enemy's hands

The citation announcing the award said, "His personal example, leadership of high order, indomitable courage and determination to fight against heavy odds, born of a high sense of duty to serve the Ruler and the State, inspired the small force to fight to the last, thereby delaying the advance of the hostile hordes for three days This was very largely responsible for saving the city of SRINAGAR from falling into the hands of the raiders"

Brigadier Rajendra Singh belonged to a distinguished line of soldier ancestors He was orphaned when he was four and was brought up by an uncle His early life of rectitude, simplicity and discipline had left a firm impress on his character which made him loved by all, both as a soldier and as a man

Major Somnath

New Delhi, January 26—Republican India's highest military honour, the Param Vir Chakra, was awarded to Major Som Nath Sharma of the 4th Battalion the Kumaon Regiment and to L/Nk Karam Singh, MM, of the last Battalion, the Sikh Regiment The award to Major Som Nath Sharma was posthumous

The official citation said 'Major Sharma s leadership gallantry and tenacious defence were such that his men, though outnumbered by 7 to 1, were inspired to fight the enemy for six hours and avert imminent danger to Srinagar and the Aerodrome on the morning of November 3, 1947

Major Sharma, with his Company, was holding an important position near Badgaom Village in the Srinagar Valley when an attack against his position was launched by a vastly superior force Outnumbered and facing withering fire from three sides, he, by his personal example,

made his men stick to their position for six hours—until reinforcements could arrive

During the operation Major Sharma with one arm in plaster exposed himself to the full fury of hostile fire He laid out airstrips to guide aircraft to their targets in full view of the attackers and when casualties seemed to depl te the strength of the already meagre force at his command he started personally filling the magazin s and handing them to his gunners At this stage a mortar shell landed amongst his ammunition resulting in an explosion that killed him His last message to Brigade HQ was I shall not withdraw one inch but will fight to the last man and to the last round

The official citation added Major Sharma set an example of courage and qualities seldom equalled in the history of the Indian Army

L/Naik Karam Singh was awarded the Param Vir Chakra for outstanding courage and resourcefulness in beating back eight attacks despite heavy odds

On October 13 1948 he was commanding an outpost in the Tithwal area when an attack began after heavy shelling Though outnumbered by 10 to 1 L/Naik Karam Singh kept his ground and beat off the attack

There were eight atta ks in all bef re the action was broken off and L/Naik Karam Singh dominated the scene throughout In the words of the official citation He was an inspiration to his comrades and a terror for the enemy

Lt Rane

New Delhi June 2?—For consp cuous heroism a d exempl ry leadership in the Jammu and Kashmir operat ons 2/ Lieut R ma Raghuba Rane of the Corps of En ineers

was awarded the Param Vir Chakra, Republican India's highest gallantry award

On April 8, 1948, when our troops were advancing on the road from Naushehra to Rajauri they found that it was thickly strewn with minefields and roadblocks and was heavily guarded by hostiles Lt Rane and his men were put to the task of clearing it so that our tanks could pass through safely As they started work, they were greeted with heavy mortar fire, with the result that two of them were killed and five, including himself wounded Unperturbed, Lt Rane reorganised his party and cleared the road so speedily that the movement of our tanks was facilitated The clearing operations however lasted until the evening, when the Barwali Ridge was captured

Knowing that the hostiles had not been completely cleared, Lt Rane started making a diversion for the tanks and worked till late in the night The clearing operations, starting on April 9, again continued for the whole day and our column, which carried ammunition and other essential supplies, advanced without a mishap

Determination and Diligence

On April 10, Lt Rane performed a miracle when cleared a huge roadblock single-handed After going further ahead, the leading carrier came across a formidable roadblock of five big pine trees surrounded by mines and covered by machine gun fire Lt Rane got to his work again inspite of heavy hostile fire, and with the support of one troop of tanks cleared it before dawn, not caring for his personal safety and, at times, without food or rest Lt Rane kept busy for four days ceaselessly until our column could reach Chingas

'Param Vir Chakra' Winner Jadunath Singh

New Delhi December 18—For gallantry and outstanding heroism in the Jammu and Kashmir operations, Naik

Jadunath ingh of the Rajput Regiment was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra, Republican India s highest military honour Naik Jadunath Singh who is the fourth recipient of the award hailed from village Khajuri District Shahjehanpur Uttar Pradesh

In February 1948 at a time when the defence of Naushehra was vital and the approaches to the town were guarded by a small force in the face of overwhelming numbers of hostiles Naik Jadunath Singh was in command of a forward post The hostiles numbering about 500 made desperate attempts to break through the defences and surge forward in waves to overwhelm the small picquet manned by one section Di playing admirable qualities of leadership Jadunath employed his meagre force with such skill that the enemy was forced to retire in confusion When a second attack was made Jadunath once again inspired his men some of whom had become casualties to put up a dogged resistance When the hostiles increased in numbers returned to make a final assault Jadunath despite being wounded rose to the occasion to give battle All his men had become casualties by this tim

Sten gu n in hand Jadunath Singh dashed forward from his trench and opened a devastating fire at the enemy who had come within 15 yards of the defence line His heroism had the desired effects and an impending defeat was turned into victory Jadunath had been n battle continuously for t o hours since day break When the hostiles were retreat n in disorder a chance bullet hit him on the head and h succumbed to it on the spot It was discovered later that he had receved e ght wounds during the action

Thus charging single handed at the advancing enemy Jadunath Singh performed the hi hest act of gallantry and self sacrifice and by so doing saved his p equet from be n over run at the most critical stage in the battle for the

defence of Naushehra" and the citation announcing the award of 'Param Vir Chakra'

Havildar Major Piru Singh

Company Havildar Major Piru Singh of the Rajputana Rifles was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra for outstanding gallantry in the Kashmir operations

On the night of July 17, 1948, a Company of which Piru Singh was the Havildar Major was detailed to attack and capture a high hill feature south of Tithwal The enemy had dug himself in well, with MMG's covering the steep and narrow track leading to the feature As our Company advanced it encountered heavy machine gun fire and a hail of grenades from both flanks and more than half the men of the forwardmost section, which Piru Singh was leading, were either killed or wounded Undeterred by these losses, Piru Singh rallied the remnants of his small force and pressed his attack forward with unflinching determination Grenade splinters had wounded him in several places and ripped up his clothes He managed, however, to reach the top of the enemy position and taking a desperate leap into the trench in complete disregard of his personal safety, he bayonetted the enemy gun crew

Piru Singh now realised that he was fighting single-handed, the rest of the men of his section having been killed or wounded Another grenade wounded him in the face but he crawled out of the trench With blood gushing down from his lacerated face, he turned his attention to the next enemy position where, too he bayonetted two to death It was while attempting to attack the third enemy bunker that he was hit in the head by a bullet and was killed but an explosion in this bunker showed that Piru Singh s grenade had done its work here also

The citation announcing the award to Piru Singh said —

He paid with his life for his singularly brave act He left for the rest of his comrades a unique example of single handed bravery and determined courage

WINNER OF TWO GALLANTRY AWARDS

A Brave Gurkha

Among those who were presented gallantry awards at the investiture at Rashtrapati Bhavan on August 15, 1953 was Havildar Lal Bahadur Khattri of the Gorkha Rifles who is the first recipient of two of free India s gallantry awards He won both the Maha Vir Chakra and Vir Chakra during the Kashmir operations

The action in which Lal Bahadur was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra took place on the night of May 17 1948 The Havildar was leading his platoon in an attack against a strongly held enemy position near Poonch When the enemy launched a heavy counter attack Lal Bahadur s platoon finding themselves hort of ammunition began to fall back but he himself refused to withdraw and continued to hold the position single handed His courage provided the incentive to the men of his platoon who returned to the fight and the position was held inspite of heavy enemy pressure

During the ensuing fighting Hav Lal Bahadur lifted one of his wounded comrades at great personal risk for he was within easy range of enemy guns During this act of gallantry and self sacrifice Lal Bahadur had to fight his way back to safety while dragging the wounded soldier with him

The citation announcing the award said that Hav Lal Bahadur s was an outstanding example of gallantry and his act showed sheer cool courage and able leadership

Hav Lal Bahadur hails from the Char Hazaar Parbat District of Nepal He joined the Army in 1934 and served in Malaya in 1941 where he was made a prisoner of war by the Japanese He served throughout in the Kashmir operations

Captain Kishan Singh

For fine leadership, courage and remarkable presence of mind during the Jammu and Kashmir operations, Lieutenant (now Captain) Kishan Singh Rathore of the Rajput Regiment was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra

On February 6 1948, Lieut Rathore was commander of a picquet near Naushehra on which the hostiles had directed his main attack With a force more than a battalion strong the raiders continuously attacked Lieut Rathore's position which was defended by a weak company of 70 men only Undeterred by the large number of casualties his company suffered, Lieut Rathore rushed continuously from one post to another in utter disregard of his safety, and inspired his men to fight to the last man and last round

During the later stages of fighting, Lt Rathore personally carried ammunition on his head and kept the various posts well supplied Seeing this gallant action, his men fought with great zeal and determination and threw the enemy back with heavy casualties By this action, he saved the key position in the defence of Naushehra "This act of gallantry", said the citation, "was of the highest order and beyond all praise

Maha Vir Chakra For

Eight more awards for acts of gallantry approved by the President of India, were announced in the *Gazette of India* on December 10, 1955

Shri M Ismail, a civilian labourer, has been awarded

Maha Vir Chakra for display of a very high degree of bravery devotion to duty and disregard for his personal safety on two occasions during the Kashmir operations in 1948

On the 23rd Jun 1948 in Zojila Pass area in Jammu and Kashmir he d splayed outstanding skill in negotiating the almost impassable slopes in an effort to recover one of the men of a reconnaissance patrol from a main picquet who w s ambushed and severely wounded in the lung By the superb physical effort he got to the wounded man bundled him up in h s blanket and brought him to safety

Again on the 14th September 1948 at Zojila Pass during an attack on an important hill feature (Chabutra) by 3 JAT Ismail volunteered to accompany that unit as a guide, knov ing full well that it entailed great personal danger Advancing with the leading scouts inspite of close and continuous f re he guided the troops and it was only when a hidden MMG from about 20 yards distance had wiped out the leading line that he fell into the enemy hands and became a prisoner His cool determination and utter fearlessne s in leading the troops through nearly impassable passage enabled the rest of the troops to get close to the enemy and engage them

Vir Chakra decorations have been conferred on Sepoy Mange Ram 3 Battalion The Jat Regiment (Posthumous) and Hav ldar Mokand Singh 1 Patiala (RS) Infantry for the d play of gallantry courage determination and sacrifice in tl e f ce of the enemy of a very high order

Four other individuals Jamadar Kulbir Thapa and Rfn Ganeshbahadur T mang—both of 5 Battalion The 8 Gorkha Rifles Havildar S S Bhandari AOC Depot Battalion have also been awarded Ashoka Chakra Class III for showing presence of mind personal courage and selflessness in the task of saving others

A Brave Dhobi

New Delhi, January 24, 1951—At a ceremonial parade in Delhi Cantonment on January 29 1951, General K M Cariappa, presented the Mahavir Chakra to civilian dhobi Ram Chandra, the first civilian to win India's second highest gallantry award

Ram Chandra who was attached to an Engineer Field Unit in Kashmir, was accompanying a convoy to Jammu on December 18, 1947 when it was attacked by a strong tribal force who had created a road block by removing the decking from a bridge over which the convoy had to pass Ram Chandra helped his Commanding Officer to replace the decking while the bridge was under continuous fire When the Officer Commanding was wounded, he took his rifle and help the enemy at bay with well-directed covering fire, which enabled the officer and his vehicle to get across the bridge Cut off from the rest of the company, the dhobi helped the wounded officer, who was in a state of collapse due to loss of blood, to the nearest post 8 miles away, acting as an advance scout to ensure that the way was clear for the officer to move

The official citation making the award said, "Ram Chandra's devotion to the officer was far beyond the call of duty His coolness under fire and courage were unequalled

Heroic Feat of Gorkha

For displaying dash land determination of a very high order in the face of overwhelming odds L/Havildar Ram Parshad Gurung 5 Gorkha Rifles was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra

After the breaking up of the Zojila defence on

November 2 1948 a platoon was sent up Badgumbar Nar to round up the raiders The Platoon suddenly came up against heavy and accurate close range enemy fire from a well dug in bunker In order to avoid casualties it was necessary to find two men who would creep up and knock out the bunker Gurung was the first to volunteer himself and crept forward with grenades and stengun He was followed by a rifleman and both were covering each other It was the dashing and daring spirit shown by L/Hav Gurung and the way he planned the attack that got us the hostile position

Once again during the attack on another feature this N C O was responsible for capturing an enemy position without loss to his section On both occasions he showed a keen sense of duty and daring leadership and was an inspiration to his men

Gallant Major Chopra

Major Satya Pal Chopra of the 3rd Para Battalion the 5th Mahratta Light Infantry was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra for gallantry in the Jammu and Kashmir operations

The award relates to an action on the formidable hill feature called Pir Thil Nikka which tried the Indian troops mettle to the full

Major Chopra was commanding the left forward company during the advance on Jhangar The hostiles lay on the hill feature strongly entrenched with their bunkers well camouflaged They held their fire until Major Chopra s company and another company on the right were in an open space of ground only 200 yards away from their position Both companies came under heavy fire and were pinned to the ground Major Chopra immediately rushed forward with one platoon to

capture an intermediate position During this move he was wounded in the face but inspite of the injury he, with a handful of men, continued to engage the enemy in order to give covering fire to the rest of the troops

Later, Major Chopra turned his attention to the evacuation of his wounded men to safety Four of his men were still lying on the exposed ground which was swept by heavy machine gun fire from the enemy Inspite of the hazzards of the situation, he managed to remove three of his men but while he was going for the fourth he was shot in the head and fell dead

The citation announcing the award said, "Major Chopra made the supreme sacrifice of his life in the discharge of his duties in order to save the lives of his comrades His leadership and complete disregard to personal safety, his-devotion to duty and gallantry were of the highest order"

A Hero of Kumaon

For outstanding gallantry in Jammu and Kashmir State, the posthumous award of Maha Vir Chakra was given to a Jamadar from Patiala and a Naik from Almora

Commanding a platoon in a heavily snow covered area in May 1948 near Machhoi in the Kashmir province Jemadar Hardeva Singh of the 1st Patiala (RS) Infantry [Village Dhan Singh Khana, Tehsil Mansa District Barnala (Patiala)] showed great presence of mind when he saved his entire platoon from being annihilated by the enemy

Faced by intensely accurate enemy fire from well prepared and concealed positions, and finding no other way out, Jemadar Hardeva Singh ordered his men to move through a hail of automatic and mortar fire in an attempt to collect

them near the hillside and keep the enemy engaged from there till further reinforcements arrived He refused to take cover himself until he was s ti fied that all his men had been pulled out

The citation says The Jemadar displayed grit and calmness of the highest degree His utter fearlessness and quiet demeanour p t heart into his men Though he was mortally wounded he declined to be attended to and insisted on the other wounded being dressed up first

KUMAON KE BACHO JAN CHALI JAE LEKIN DUSHMAN KE AJ TUKRE TUKRE KAR DALO PICHE NAHIN HATNA (Childr n of Kumaon tear the enemy t to pieces today even if yo r l fe is lost Don t withdraw) were th last words f Naik Nar Sin h (Village Kotult P O Kotult Patti Malla Su ia District Almora) of the 4th Kumaon Regiment as he lay dyi g in an enemy bunker at a f atu e orth of the Jhelum in Kashmi O e of his hands was still clutchi g the Bren gun b t that he had c ptured f om the e e y

In May 1948 while his company attacked a hill feat re nea Chak th strongly fortified by the enemy with two companys a section of MMGS six LMGS rifle grenades nd 3 mortar fire Naik Nar Singh though wound d by an enemy bullet personally led the action into attack and jumped into an enemy LMG bunker bayoneted two of the g nn rs and captured the gun His bold and swift action routed the enemy and forced h m to quit tl feature leav ng behind one medium machine gun two light machine g ins one 2 mortar one pistol s gnal seven rifles and a large quantity of ammunition and stores

The c t tion said Naik Nar Singh s examp le of s lf s sacrif ce de otion to duty and determination *to exte minate* the enemy are s me of the rare d eds of gallant y

Hero of 700 Casualties

For saving a very vital position and inflicting well over 700 casualties on the enemy while he was in command of an MMG post in the Naushehra sector in the Jammu area, Naik Krishna Sonawane of 1 Mahar MG Regiment was awarded the Maha Vir Ghakra

In February 1948, the enemy mounted a large scale offensive, with more than one battalion against our Naushehra picquets Naik Sonawane commanded one of our advanced MMG posts which was subjected to a mass formation attack from all directions His gun started firing at point blank range, but, undaunted, the enemy made several abortive attempts to assault his post The number of enemy dead continued to pile up in front of him At a critical juncture, No 1 of the gun was wounded in the neck and an LMG burst from close range perforated the right hand of Naik Sonawane Pushing away the casualty and unmindful of his own wound, Sonawane continued to fire with his left hand But this was not the end Soon after, the gun itself was damaged beyond repair, and the enemy, encouraged by the stopping of firing, infiltrated to very close quarters *Sonawane continued to inspire his gun team and kept the* enemy at bay with the help of hand grenades The attack was finally beaten off

The citation said, This NCO displayed personal courage determination, coolness and devotion to duty, and gave outstanding lead to his men for a very trying period of two hours '

Forwarding off a serious threat to his convoy in the face of overwhelming odds and keeping the enemy engaged for the whole day with the meagre resources at his disposal, Subedar Nadikerianda Nanjappa Bheemiah of the 638 Company, Army Supply Corps, was awarded the Vir Chakra

Lt Colonel Khushal Chand

Lt Colonel Khushal Chand winner of Mahavir Chakra award for exceptional bravery in Kashmir operations recently died in a plane crash while serving the International Commission for supervision and control in Laos His heroism became the subject of many folk songs in Kulu and Ladakh An interesting feature of his sacrifice was that his cousin happened to be the commander and both were eager to sacrifice their life to save the other Hailing from Lahaul in the Kangra District of Punjab Khushal Chand was granted his commission in 1940 He served with the 2nd Battalion of the Dogra Regiment which was one of the earliest units to be sent to defend Kashmir against the raiders in 1947 In the following year Khushal Chand who was then a major volunteered to go to Leh to help in the raising of a Local Militia Force and to conduct the defence of Ladakh Valley For full four months with only a handful of men the young officer delayed the enemy's advance toward Leh along the Indus Valley He conducted Guerilla warfare very skilfully and was awarded Mahavir Chakra for his daring and initiative during this campaign Throughout these operat ons despite lack of rations mortar and ammunitions Major Khushal Chand led his small band of men with vigour and by personal example of exceptional daring he carried out his task successfully maintaining the high traditions of the Indian Army

Long Live Brigadier Usman

In December 1947 a large number of enemy whose morale had been greatly enhanced by the fall of Jhangar gathered round Naushera and virtually laid seige to this important place Brigadier Usman was in command of 50 Para Brigade which was located in Naushera By personal example he kept up the morale not only of his own troops but also of th civil population and organised

properly the defence of this strategic locality, which was so coveted by the enemy, and also of the Line of Communications

On February 6, 1948, approximately 10,000 enemy, mainly tribesmen from the North West Frontier Province, launched nine determined attacks on his positions from all directions During the height of this grim battle, when situation on one of the most important sectors was extremely critical, Brigadier Usman, who had only very small local reserves in his hand, quickly appreciated the situation and despatched reinforcements to Tain Dhar, a vital feature, after personally briefing them, when the area around his Headquarters was being shelled and mortared The men, infused by his spirit and his leadership, drove home the counter-attack Naushera was saved Throughout this battle, which lasted for two days and nights, many were the occasions when Brigadier Usman himself and at grave risk to his person, visited positions which were hard pressed

200 Enemy Killed

His devotion to duty, his leadership, his cool and calculated bravery, his admirable conduct of this battle, were the main reasons of our winning and the enemy repulsed with such heavy losses Approximately, 2000 dead enemy bodies were counted after this battle—a major victory in the history of the Jammu and Kashmir campaign

In March 1948, this officer led his brigade with such skill and determination that in spite of heavy opposition and difficulties of weather and of terrain, Jhangar was recaptured This success was largely due to his leadership and devotion to duty

Time and again, this officer, who was adored by one and all and who followed him with implicit faith, led his brigade to victory by dint of matchless courage, outstanding

leadership and skilful planning The successiul defence of Naushehra will live in the history of the Indian Army as one of its great victories when so much was achieved by so small a force will always be connected with Brigadier Usman s name In this battle he gave superb example of inspiring leadership and outstanding courage Lon live Mohammad Usman who died for the unity of India and defence of Kashmir

The Burning of Baramulla

By Frank Moraes

Ten years ago Baramulla shot into world headlines when the tribal raiders aided and abetted by Pakistan poured into this small township midway between Srinagar and Uri and for nearly a week indulged in an orgy of burning pillage looting rape and murder The tale ha often been told and the testimony is there Yet of the man strange twists in the tragedy of Kashmir none is more ironic than the fact that the Western-dominated Security Council with the horrors of Baramulla staring it in the face should have hesitated to characterise such conduct as agg ession and to name the aggressors If Baramulla was not a victim to tanatical hate and aggression no more was Lidice

There ere few vestiges of those days of horror left when I drove through this sleepy township on my way from Srinagar to the cease fire line beyond Uri By the main highway is a memorial to the youthf il Mohammed Maqbool Sherwani a National Conference worker who was torture l and finally done to death by the raiders The m m ri l stands on the spot where they crucified him and fter committing nameless indignities on his writhing tortured body hacked him to death

Sh rwani died l ravely Long live Kashmir and India

"I have plenty more," he said, "if you want more"

Looking at the jar the nun recognised it as one of many in the Convent pantry which the raider had obviously looted Other incidents were less humorous and more gruesome A raider who came for medical treatment had the fingers of one of his hands covered with rings

"Where did you get these ?" a nun inquired

"Oh," said the raider blandly, "I killed fifteen men to get them '

After some days, said the Italian nun "a stout, round, rolypoly of a man arrived before whom the raiders prostrated themselves It was the Pir of Manki Sharif

"The two infant children" of Colonel and Mrs Dykes were brought before him, and the Pir solemnly presented thirty rupees to both of them

"Aren't you ashamed," said one of the nuns, "to give thirty rupees to the children whose parents your men have killed ?"

The Pir said nothing but with his arrival the condition of the nuns and the Convent improved, and the injured and ill among them were taken by convoy to Abbottabad

So slowly the nightmare lifted, and in time the Indian troops chased the raiders from Baramulla The nuns are still there, and presumably can be question by any U N representative And yet the Security Council, shutting its eyes to facts such as these, complacently continues in refusing to admit that there was any aggression in Kashmir!

CHAPTER XI

THE GREAT NAVAL REVOLT

300 Dead 15000 Wounded

This is the story of the forgotten heroes of the Great Naval Revolt on 19th Feb 1946 that led to freedom On the tenth anniversary of the Great Naval Revolt today we pay silent homage to the brave patriots who laid down their lives or were wounded and maimed who fought in any manner and at whatever price unarmed the might of the British Empire so that India might be free from foreign oppression

There will probably be no formal functions no wreath layings nor will bugles and trumpets blow Most surviving participants of that Revolt are today out of the Navy unrelated to the seats of power and leading the life of the people colourlessly described as the masses

300 Dead 15 000 Wounded

The toll of the Revolt was at least three hundred dead and fifteen thousand wounded in the City of Bombay alone People in Karachi and Calcutta also paid with their lives and limbs on a smaller scale

It is not easy to evaluate precisely the contribution the Revolt made to our national struggle for liberation Nor would it be meet or proper to make any adverse criticism of anyone We would not also tear the Revolt out of its context and hold a post mortem not today any way The occasion is too solemn for working up passions It is however right to remember certain significant facts objectively and dispassionately

Prime Minister Attlee, speaking in the British Parliament on February 22, 1946, claimed that "the Congress Party officials have disclaimed participation" in this epic event The Congress leaders did, in fact, refrain from commenting on the merits of the case, a very strange thing for them to do, indeed, for, in the matter of issuing statements to the press and making speeches, they had never so far failed to seize the slightest provocative occasion or event Indeed, had the Revolt been in Timbuctoo, in which one brown man was involved against one white man, the occasion would have been considered to be of a gravity warranting a special Working Committee Meeting, resolutions and public pronouncements

Intervention of Indian Leaders

Some leaders, however, not wanting to be 'left out' intervened Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad met the Commander in Chief, Gen Sir Claude Auchinleck (later Field Marshal, and declared on February 22, through the Press, that he had secured an assurance from the C in-C that there would be no victimisation of the men who had revolted if they surrendered unconditionally

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel endorsed the Maulana Saheb s appeal and sent imperative messages calling upon the men of the Navy to surrender The men surrendered on the 23rd morning

On the 25th the C in C clarified his assurance given through the Maulana Saheb While, he said there would be no victimisation, those tried and found guilty of engineering or conducting the "mutiny would be punished If the men found the distinction made here as without a difference they had only themselves to blame

On the 27th, in Bombay alone three hundred and ninety six men from the various shore establishments and ships were arrested and whisked away to Mulund Camp

Pandit Nehru later explained to the men when he met them at a rendezvous arranged by the writer that the C-in C s interpretation of the word victimisation was the one he himself had put on it when during certain earlier negotiations with Wavell the latter had suggested to Nehru that in the event of a transfer of power to Indian hands there should be no victimisation of the services

Revolt Led To Freedom

It is irrelevant whether the Congress actively assisted the Revolt or not Because of the Congress apathy how ever if there was apathy the Revolt should not loose its significance altogether Posterity has a right to see it in its correct perspective

The Labour Government in Britain had nominated a highpower Cabinet Mission to visit India and negotiate a settlement with Indian leaders The Congress was committed to receive and conduct these negotiations with the Mission in an atmosphere conducive to its success Naturally a Revolt on the eve of the Mission s visit was embarrassing And yet the Revolt had undoubtedly popular support Thus the Congress was on the horns of a dilemma

That the Mission came briefed not to make an uncon dit onal gift of freedom to India is patent to all students of history What did happen then between the Mission and the declaration of independence for the people of India to persuade the British to quit India lock , stock and barrel so hurriedly

Undoubtedly the lesson of the Revolt had a great deal to do with this change of mind without a corresponding change of heart

The British Labour did not thereby embrace the principle a r ght to govern themselves Large parts of Africa and territories l ke Malaya and West Indies did

Sherwani was one martyr among many, Kashmiri and non Kashmiri, including some Europeans who were butchered in the precincts of the Catholic Convent and hospital run by nuns of the Franciscan Order of Mary

Horrifying

I spent an entire afternoon at Baramulla, for the most part at the Convent and hospital where I heard the horrifying details of those days of terror from three nuns—one an Italian, one a German and the third a Spaniard—who were witnesses to, and fortunate survivors of the looting and killing In my day I have seen some violence, particularly as a war correspondent in the last war But there was something strangely and deeply moving in the accounts of these three women who ten years after their nightmare experiences could retail them placidly to a stranger and recount some of them with even a trace of whimsical humour

"We never thought we would be attacked,' said the Italian nun who has worked 30 years in Kashmir and speaks Kashmiri and Urdu fluently "The raiders swarmed into our compound one morning, and suddenly the whole place was full of them They took away everything—beds, mattresses, door knobs, electrical fittings lamps, chairs, tables, curtains, groceries—oh anything they could move And what they could not take they destroyed They smashed to pieces our X ray equipment and entering our church desecrated it, destroying all the sacred images, the tabernacle vestments and candles '

She went on to describe the killings A small woman herself she referred continually to the raiders as huge big men—"so tall and fierce, and they carried all sorts of implements—guns, swords, knives, axes, spears and bayonets, and the tips of many of their spears and bayonets dripped with blood '

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The raiders came in demanding money 'Sona sona they clamoured flouri hing their guns and knives

The Gold Teeth

—We had no gold said the young Spanish nun and we carry no money I told them so All of a sudden one of the raiders saw I had two gold teeth in my mouth They demanded them but I said I could not take them off as they were fitted in They threw me against a tree held me and tried to hack the gold teeth out with knives They were not human beings but brutes

Here said the Spanish nun pointing to a spot not far from the door of the church is where they killed Colonel Dykes

Col Dykes who was only 33 was attached to the Sikh Regiment and his wife who had recently had a child in the hospital was also in the Convent grounds The raiders took away the Colonel s money his wrist watch fountain pen and other knick knacks as also his coat

The Colonel said the nun was standing there in his shirt when another party of raiders came along and demanded money from him He told them he had none whereupon one of them drew his gun and shot him He was also stabbed

By that time the convent and hospital grounds were a shambles and there was pandemonium everywhere

As they looted and attacked us the raiders kept shouting Pakistan has come said the Italian nun I only knew that the devil had come

In their lust and fury the raiders did not discriminate between men and women They shot the Mother Superior wounded another nun and killed Mrs Dykes whose naked

body was later discovered in a well Colonel Dykes and his wife left behind them two infant children, both of whom were at that time in the convent grounds A Spanish woman patient in the hospital as also a Hindu woman patient were killed in their beds

"The raiders ran about the compound screeching and shouting like mad men,' said the Italian nun "I was in a verandah when a raider approached me with an axe, removed the nun's *coif* covering my head, and seizing me by my hair flourished his axe I thought I was going to die, but suddenly another raider who had come upon a locked chest shouted something, and my raider threw me aside I think he thought there was treasure or money in the chest, I ran away "

The Italian nun was to face death a second time There were at the time twelve nuns in the convent, and the raiders later seized nine of them, including the Italian, Spanish and German nuns with whom I spoke and ordered them to stand in a line before a firing party

The mother Superior who accompanied me around the convent described the scene

'They were made to line up there," she said indicating a path along a lawn "The German nun with whom you spoke was one of them

She's a very calm phlegmatic sort of person She's been here 24 years working in the hospital She was one of the last to be brought in by the raiders, and when they directed her to stand in the line she didn't know why She asked the nun next to her the reason "They re going to shoot us, was the reply 'Oh, is that so? said the German nun and folding her arms behind her back and squaring her shoulders she fell into line "

What saved them ? I asked

A miracle said the Mother Superior They were about to be shot and the raiders had actually levelled their guns at them when a Pakistani officer rushed through the gate there shouting stop stop

The nuns along with a couple of Catholic priests some patients and a number of Sikh and Hindu refugees who had escaped the raiders scrutiny were then bundled into a wing of the Convent where they stayed for some days Off and on the raiders returned at times for medical aid at other times to demand that the women be surrendered to them a demand which the priests resolutely refused

Firm Resistance

'You may kill all of us but you cannot take them they declared And the raiders warned by their leaders to leave the Convent staff alone desisted from proceeding beyond threats

I saw the graves of Colonel Dykes and his wife buried side by side beneath a simple white cross

We had nothing with which to dig their graves one of the nuns remarked The raiders had taken everything It took hours to dig their graves with sticks and other crude implements

The brutality of the raiders was seen even among those who came to the hospital for medical treatment One of them after having his wounds dressed and stitched coolly pocketed the scissors and forceps which were used for his benefit

Occasionally they relented in their cruelty One day a raider seeing one of the nuns who was distressed and overwhelmed by the happenings around her weeping offered her a jar of jam

not receive freedom Also, as long as the British that all people everywhere have Labour Cabinet felt confident that the Indian personnel of the armed forces could be relied upon to be willing tools for containing Indian nationalism, the furthest concessions they would have made would have been a scheme of subsidiary position for India amongst the British dominions The Revolt shattered that confidence

Let us look at the facts of the Mutiny On February 19, 1946, the people of Bombay saw the unusual spectacle of large numbers of boys in naval uniform demonstrating near Castle Barracks, the Naval depot within the historic Bombay Fort, shouting patriotic slogans and waving nationalist and revolutionary flags Events then developed fast

Bombay In State of Siege

This was officially termed a "Mutiny" and orders went out for the arrest of the demonstrators the next day and the Army was called in for the purpose The men of the Navy, in self defence, captured Castle Barracks and all the Navy's ships in port, about thirty in number, including the Flag Ship of Vice Admiral Godfrey, the Flag officer Commanding, R I N

On the refusal of the Indian troops to open fire on the men hold up in Castle Barracks which was surrounded, British reinforcements were called in by mid day and the bombardment commenced The men had possession of the arsenal in the establishment and fought back, shot for shot

When Vice Admiral Godfrey demanded the unconditional surrender of all men in the ships and in Castle Barracks on threat that otherwise they would be 'blasted out and, as a further threat, caused bomber aircraft to fly over the port, the Flag Ship "Narbada" signalled all ships to train their guns on the Chowpatty

Seaface and the Marine Drive a strategy that paid off by bringing out mortified Congress men to appeal to the authorities not to provoke the destruction of the beautiful and costly mansions

Nationwide Revolt

On the 21st reports poured in from all principal ports and cities where there were naval establishments of sympathetic strikes and demonstrations

The HMIS Hindustan, a mine sweeping sloop of 1190 tons mounting two 4 guns with light armaments had been captured by the men but was being bombarded from the shore by British troops

Similarly the shore establishments HMIS Chamak Himalaya and Bahadur in Karachi the HMIS Adyar in Madras the HMIS Circars in Vizagapatam and the HMIS Hooghly in Calcutta were all reported to be on sympathetic strike

Indian Navy ships in Colombo waters played a ruse on Royal Naval ships in the vicinity lest they should rush to Bombay to help bombard the revolting ships. They ent out false alarms and sent the Royal Naval ships scurrying to the help of ghost vessels in distress in Akyab and Mauritius

In Bombay all shore establishments and navy vessels were on strike and were joined by men of the R I A F and some Indian troops

The people of Bombay also rose as one man and in a hero c endeavour to save the massacre of the innocents planned by the Briti h created cordit ors in which mobility for their forces was next to impossible All l nes of communications were either cut or barricaded There was a virtual war

The Bombay Government imposed a dusk to dawn curfew, which made no difference to the ferocity of the war

Alarmed at the turn of events and feeling that the purpose of the revolt was fully served the Central Strike Committee, which met at 2 o'clock in the early hours of the 23rd at Churchill Chambers in Colaba, decided upon a surrender of the men at day break

In Karachi the HMIS "Hindustan" fell, after a heroic stand in which six lives were lost and thirty three men seriously wounded

The origin of the Revolt goes back to an incident a fort night prior to that On February 22, 1946, Vice-Admiral Godfrey was due to visit the HMIS "Talwar', the Royal Indian Navy's Signal School in Bombay

In the early hours of that morning the walls of the establishment were found plastered with the slogans

QUIT INDIA ! and JAI HIND !

One Leading Telegraphist, P C Datta, was placed under close arrest by the authorities on the suspicion of his participation in the poster campaign He was subsequently reduced to the rank of Telegraphist and dismissed The Datta incident caused some unrest among the 'Talwar" men who had great affection for this fine, young man from Bengal

On the 17th evening the dinner served in the "Talwar' consisted of the usual rice with the customary sprinkling of stones, but to the men, sullen for over a fortnight over the Datta incident, this was the last show They declined to eat that meal which they said was not fit for pigs That itself constituted "Mutiny" for the Navy

When the complaint was laid before the Commanding Officer, Commander Bird the next morning, his blood pres

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